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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-146 *29 July 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

West Bank Transfer of Power Talks Continue

PLO's Sha'th on Talks

NC2707191694 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Report by Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (AFP)—Israel and the PLO made rapid progress here Wednesday [27 July] in talks on the transfer of civilian powers to Palestinians in the West Bank, delegation officials said.

But top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Israel was dragging its heels on the implementation of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords on the ground. The discussions on Wednesday focused on the transfer of authority in education and health matters to Palestinians throughout the West Bank.

Sha'th said negotiations were "progressing rapidly." "The health and education dossiers will be completed on Wednesday evening and on Thursday we will probably finish the general document on the initial transfer of powers," he said.

Under the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in September, authority in tourism, tax and social affairs will also be transferred to Palestinians.

Israeli delegation head General Danny Rothschild said talks were going "very well as far as the transfer of health powers is concerned, and we are in the process of finalising the education dossier."

Sha'th said talks on Palestinian empowerment would finish in August, and negotiations would begin on other stages of the extension of self-rule. These will include the election of an autonomy council and the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank. But Sha'th said that in spite of the progress in negotiations, "the whole situation prevents me from maintaining my normal optimism."

The talks "are not the only site" where events are unfolding, he said. "What is happening in Gaza is not a strict application" of the accord signed by Israel and the PLO on May 4, to launch self rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"The Israelis are making life very difficult at Gaza," he added. "The crossing points (between Gaza and Egypt, and Jericho and Jordan) are still in Israeli hands, the crossing points that Palestinians have to use to get from Gaza to Jericho and vice versa still don't work.

"These two problems are enough to make life miserable, especially since the Israelis are creating problems for everyone." Sha'th added that that the problems would damage the economy because they were an obstacle to the free movement of goods.

The third round of talks on the extension of autonomy which began on Tuesday is due to end Thursday. In Gaza City, meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official said general elections in the autonomous areas have been postponed until December 15 awaiting an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, municipal affairs "minister" in the new Palestinian authority, told reporters, "to be realistic we pushed the date back to December 15." The vote was first set for July 13 but put off until October 15 after the launch of autonomy was held up.

Security issues left over from the Gaza-Jericho accord—including Palestinian prisoners, border crossing points and the size of the Jericho self-rule area—would be postponed to next week, Sha'th said Wednesday.

Draft Pact on Health, Education

TA2807163394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The PLO and Israel have reached drafts on education and health in the talks in Cairo. The draft agreement would hand over authority for health and education to the Palestinians. However, a member of the Israeli delegation to the talks said there is still a lot of work to complete before a final agreement is reached on health, education, tourism, welfare, and direct taxation. The Israeli official said the major problem was the absence of a Palestinian budget framework. The talks are to resume next week, and are expected to continue for several weeks.

Delegate on Talks, Agreement

JN2807173094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Interview with Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Israeli-Palestinian talks by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi in Cairo; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded; first paragraph is Qol Yisra'el introduction]

[Text] A round of Israeli-Palestinian talks on the empowerment of the Palestinians in the remainder of the West Bank concluded in Cairo today. A draft joint agreement on education and health has been prepared. Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi has spoken to Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks:

[Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur: A second week of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations ended in Cairo today. What agreements were reached?

['Asfur] We have completed three days of negotiations on early empowerment this week. These negotiations focused primarily on education, health, financial affairs, the interrelatedness of these issues, and the functions that have continued to be performed by the Israeli military authority and its civil administration bodies. We have reached an agreement, albeit incomplete, on

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issues pertaining to education and health. We can safely say that next week we may announce the draft paper that the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed on in the two aforementioned areas. Nonetheless, it remains to be said that the toughest issues have not been settled yet. But, the two papers have basically been drafted. They will be referred to the Palestinian political leadership. We hope that the agreed drafts will be announced next week. Financial issues, the overriding concept governing these issues, and some issues related to taxes and value-added tax are also under consideration. It has been agreed to allow the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to levy taxes, and a value-added tax, to enable it to finance some relevant activities. The negotiations will be resumed next week, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Is the Palestinian side ready to shoulder the responsibility for education, given the scope of the spending and budgeting entailed?

['Asfur] Nobody can say Palestinians will have a problem managing educational activities. We have long and sufficient experience in this regard. Practically, it is we who are managing this sector under the Israeli occupation. During the intifadah, when there were continuous closures of universities and schools, Palestinians showed creativity in their management of educational activities. Hence, it is naive to claim that Palestinians are incapable of managing education.

But with regard to financial affairs, as is clear to all, there are some complications and difficulties facing the PNA. Nonetheless, we will do our utmost to secure the necessary funds required to finance educational activities through using the revenues to be made by the collection of taxes and value-added tax, and by using the aid that could be provided by donor countries to offset the deficit in this regard, as has been agreed with the World Bank and donor nations.

[Mu'addi] Hasan: When do you expect the Palestinian side to be practically and really empowered in this area?

['Asfur] It is premature to announce a specific date. But, we hope that we will receive the powers in this regard before the start of the next scholastic year, so the PNA can carry out its responsibilities and exercise its powers in this regard before the start of next year

[Mu'addi] Mr. Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations: Thank you very much.

['Asfur] You are welcome.

Round Concludes; Sha'th Comments

NC2807174194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The second round of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations pertaining to the early transfer of authority to the Palestinian administration in the occupied West Bank was concluded here today.

Commenting on the negotiations, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian side to the negotiations, said that an agreement has been reached concerning the issues of health and education. He noted that progress has also been made with regard to the general procedures for the early transfer of authority. Dr. Sha'th said, however, that there are still problems facing the implementation, such as the presence of Palestinian police before holding the legislative elections in the West Bank and the financing of the budget. These problems will be discussed next week, Dr. Sha'th added.

The Palestinian official said that the next round of negotiations will deal with the early transfer of power in the fields of tourism and social affairs and with the joint paper concerning the implementation procedures and the police.

For his part, Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories and head of the Israeli side at the negotiations, described the atmosphere as good, noting that agreement has been reached on several issues, excluding those pertaining to the budget and direct taxation to finance the departments that will be transferred to the Palestinian authority.

In statements at the end of the negotiations, Rothschild said the issue of the budget and the transfer of power in the fields of tourism and social affairs will be discussed during the next round, slated to be held next week.

Rothschild said that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations agreed to resolve at any time the problems concerning the five sectors to be transferred to the Palestinian authority. The Israeli official expressed the hope that the security affairs committee will meet next week, adding that the Palestinian side had expressed the desire to shoulder the responsibility and, therefore, they must solve the problems which will face them.

The negotiations are due to resume on Monday [1 August].

Israeli Delegation Departs Cairo

NC2807173494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The Israeli negotiating team headed by General Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories, left Cairo this afternoon. Rothschild headed the Israeli delegation to the third round of talks in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that were held yesterday, Wednesday, in Cairo, which addressed the early transfer of power to the Palestinian National Authority in the health and education sectors.

Rabin: Working Sessions With Jordan Under Way

TA2807142594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today revealed that this morning Israeli and Jordanian teams began

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working sessions, but he would not give any details because he believes any leak could jeopardize the achievements made so far. Our party affairs correspondent reports that Mr. Rabin made the remark at a meeting of the Labor Bureau. He stressed again that if the United States does not reward Jordan, the speeches will attain nothing.

The Labor Bureau discussion today did not deal with the agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] or with Rabin-Peres relations.

Insensitivity Over Jerusalem Could Harm Peace

MM2807191394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 9

[Editorial: "The Sanctity of Jerusalem"]

[Text] The sanctity of Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem goes beyond the mere supervision of the holy places there.

The issue of Jerusalem was forced into the recent Washington agreement between Jordan and Israel. Although most people have welcomed the agreement, including even the termination of the state of war between the two countries, the mention of Jerusalem in that declaration sounded the alarm. Granted, Jordan had a special status when it administered the West Bank, but Jerusalem's special position is much more than that. It does not only concern Jordan. It is linked to the territory occupied in 1967 and the Palestinians, and much more than that, it concerns Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

Any disregard or neglect by one party or another of what is required would be a major risk that would expose the still brittle peace to grave dangers.

Talking about Jerusalem as just a place of worship does not conform to the reality. This city is of special importance to the Muslims and Christians, much more so than it is to the Jews. There is the sovereignty and political aspect of the Jerusalem issue. If that aspect is not addressed carefully, considering the many sensitivities surrounding it, we would not be able to exclude the possibility of the entire peace plan becoming seriously imperiled.

The Muslims absolutely cannot imagine themselves not having sovereignty over the land of the first qibla [to which Muslims turned in their prayer] and the third holy shrine, something they had from the advent of Islam until the June 1967 war. That would be inconceivable and would be tantamount to a repressive imposition and a military usurpation, no more and no less, without any legitimate grounds.

The truth is that the international community represented by the United Nations knows how sensitive this issue is, and all the resolutions issued on Jerusalem acknowledge that.

The issue of peace is not a matter of competition in negotiation nor is it a matter of inserting a phrase in one document or another. It is a matter of seriously and sincerly seeking a just settlement of disputes in a manner that would satisfy logic, history, and rights, and that would be acceptable to the disputing parties and the international community so that life could proceed on the basis of a solid peace not likely to collapse. However, the Israeli negotiator does not take that into consideration and imagines that by forcing a statement here or there he might make a gain. The truth is that there are limits which cannot be crossed. They have to do with the essence of the spiritual entity of a deep-rooted nation which, whatever the circumstances surrounding it, cannot be violated or ignored now or in the future.

At any rate, the issue of Jerusalem cannot be tackled individually. It is a common multiparty issue, and no one party has the right to settle on its own.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinians, Jordanians Discuss 'Misunderstanding'

Arab League Head Holds Meeting

NC2807131294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a meeting at noon today with Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs; Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League; Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo and its permanent representative to the Arab League; and Dr. Nu'man Jalal, Egypt's permanent representative to the Arab League.

MENA has learned that the objective of the meeting was to eliminate the misunderstanding between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides regarding a paragraph in the recently signed Jordanian-Israeli Agreement guaranteeing Jordan's custodianship of the holy places in the city of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian side is worried that this paragraph stipulates that Israel will be given political sovereignty over Jerusalem despite Palestinian demands that Jerusalem be considered the capital of the state of Palestine.

Ambassador Muhammad Subayh earlier stated that he is seeking an emergency session of the Arab League on the permanent representatives' level to discuss the issue of Jordanian custodianship over the holy places in Jerusalem. He noted that Israel is trying to create confusion and stir up differences among the Arab countries.

He said that such a meeting could block the way to Israeli attempts to disunite the Arab parties.

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Statement Provides 'Clarifications'

NC2807172594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo and permanent representative to the Arab League, has said that the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has the right to work on retrieving all occupied Palestinian Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

This is stated in a press statement issued by the Arab League on the results of the meeting held today at the Arab League headquarters with the attendance of the permanent representatives of Jordan and Palestine. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid requested the meeting in order to discuss reports on Jordan's religious supervision of the Islamic shrines in holy Jerusalem.

The statement highlights what Jordan's representative said during the meeting concerning the right to the religious supervision of Jerusalem being in a different context and that no one side can take unilateral action on such a matter. He pointed out that Jordan had provided aid to the PLO in its efforts to retrieve all occupied territories.

The Jordanian ambassador denied that there are any differences between the Palestinians and Jordanians over Jerusalem.

The statement includes the Jordanian ambassador's explanation that the Jordanian role in the holy places and territories has not stopped ever since the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was founded. The objective of this role is to preserve, protect, and defend the holy places.

He said that Jordan's role as custodian of the holy places in Jerusalem comes within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian decision to disengage ties, which excluded awqaf and Islamic and holy affairs.

The ambassador added that the 25 July [Jordanian-Israeli] Washington Declaration's stipulation is merely a confirmation of this role. A distinction should be made between political sovereignty and the religious supervision of the holy places. The latter is of a completely different nature.

The statement notes that during the meeting the Arab League secretary general expressed his opinion that the paragraph in the Washington Declaration regarding the holy places merely confirms a right, but does not create one. The PLO's political custodianship over the occupied Palestinian territory, including the holy places, is clear-cut in light of the Jordanian explanation.

During the meeting Dr. Nu'man Jalal, Egypt's permanent representative to the Arab League, expressed his satisfaction over the clarifications that were given. He affirmed that Egypt's stand is that the Jerusalem issue concerns all Arabs and Muslims and that its final status will be settled in the negotiations between the PLO and Israel, as was stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, the permanent representative of the State of Palestine, expressed his gratitude and thanks to the secretary general for convening this meeting. He also expressed satisfaction with the opinions and ideas his excellency expressed during the meeting. He expressed satisfaction with the explanations and clarifications the permanent representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan gave. He noted that he will convey them to the Palestinian leadership.

On the other hand, after the meeting, Subayh stated that he will convey the Jordanian clarifications to the Palestinian leadership, which will then decide whether or not it will press ahead with its request to convene an emergency Arab League session.

It is worth noting that the meeting Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid chaired today to resolve the misunderstanding between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides regarding religious custodianship over Jerusalem lasted four hours.

Efforts To Solve Lockerbie Crisis Noted

NC2707162494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that the Arab League is continuing its consultations with the UN Security Council member states and the other parties concerned with the Lockerbie crisis to reach a peaceful settlement to the Libyan-Western crisis. In a statement today, he noted that he recently discussed this crisis with the new U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker, noting that he affirmed to the U.S. ambassador the Arab countries' desire not to increase the sanctions against Libya because this would generate tension and instability in the Middle East and the Mediterranean and would affect the economy of neighboring countries.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab League currently is concerned about preventing an increase in the sanctions against Libya and in showing that the collective Arab position on this crisis is serious. He noted that the Arab league's decision on the trial of the two Libyan suspects at the International Court of Justice in The Hague is a decision characterized by flexibility and is aimed at finding an honorable solution to the Libyan-Western crisis. He expressed his hope that the Western parties will respond positively to this proposal out of concern for the Libyan people's interests.

League Willing To Mediate in Egypt-Sudan Dispute

MM2807124694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Arab League Is Willing To Mediate Between Sudan and Egypt"]

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[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed the Arab League's willingness to play a conciliatory role between Egypt and Sudan over the Hala'ib problem, but he emphasized that it would do so only if asked. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the memorandum he received from 'Izz-al-Adin Hamid, Sudan's ambassador in Egypt, was just the text of the Sudanese foreign minister's letter to the chairman of the Security Council, and "so it is now clear that what Sudan submitted was not a complaint but rather a memorandum explaining that the Sudanese Government is willing to settle the dispute by any of the peaceful means listed in Article 133 of the UN Charter including arbitration and judicial settlement at the International Court of Justice."

Asked if Sudan asked him to play a part in urging Egypt to enter into a dialogue, 'Abd-al-Majid said: "Nobody asked me to play such a part." [passage omitted]

AMU Transport Ministers Support Libya

LD2807194794 Tripoli JANA in English 1813 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [Jul] 28, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The Council of Transport Ministers in the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] reiterated its solidarity with and support for the Great Jamahiriyah in countering the unjust measures imposed on her through the so-called Security Council.

In its final communique at the end of the 7th. session held in the Great Jamahiriyah, the council expressed its concern at the human casualties suffered by the Libyan Arab people and the obstacles affecting the process and interest of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The council said "considering the decisions of the union's presidency during the special session held in Rabat in 1421 [1989-1990] regarding the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries, the Council of Transport Ministers in the Arab Maghreb Union meeting in the 7th. session in the Great Jamahiriyah reaffirm its support for the Libyan Arab people towards finding a fair and honourable solution and lauds the positive initiatives declared by the Great Jamahiriyah towards settling the crisis. Also the council expresses its pre-occupation and concern towards the human and material losses suffered by the Libyan Arab people and the obstacles which affected the launching of the Arab Maghreb Union and its march and interests.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Others Comment on Jerusalem Issue

'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed

TA2807162494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 14

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, "minister" of culture in the Palestinian National Authority, by 'Isam Siyam; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Siyam] Israel is not only stressing that there is no room to talk about Jerusalem as the political capital of the Palestinians, but is also preventing them from even carrying out political activities in it. Israel has expressed this position by legislating a law that bans any political activity in Orient House related to the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. What is the Palestinian Authority's response to this Israeli escalation?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This Israeli behavior holds serious dangers for the future of the peace process. The Israelis know that it is impossible to reach a stable and lasting peace without Jerusalem. Israel is trying to impose a fait accompli and preempt the talks about Jerusalem by predetermining those talks. This is absolutely unacceptable. This issue has priority for our Authority and people. Moreover, the issue of Jerusalem must be turned into a first degree popular issue. We should also try to unify the popular position on Jerusalem. Hence, we are currently thinking of returning to a general and comprehensive popular conference to discuss this sensitive issue. In addition, Palestinian communities abroad have an important role in protecting Jerusalem and stopping the dangerous Judaization plan for this city. At the same time we are holding contacts with a number of Arab parties. We view with extremely serious concern the attempts to separate Jerusalem as a Palestinian-Arab city from the religious sites, that is to separate a religious solution from a political one. We believe these separation attempts are in line with the Israeli scheme aimed at extending the policy of Judaizing Jerusalem and obliterating its Arab features.

In its contacts with the Israeli side, the PLO has emphasized that these arbitrary measures, which began by isolating Jerusalem and expanding the pace of settlement in it and, finally, the attempt to curb and restrict Palestinian activity in the city, contradict even the agreements that we signed with them and are incompatible with the commitments undertaken by Israel before signing the Oslo accord. This issue was raised recently with the U.S. secretary of state. We stressed to the U.S. side that what is happening is a flagrant violation of the Washington agreements and that this might lead to grave results and consequences for the entire peace process.

[Siyam] But it seems that you are waging an unequal battle. Israel is being armed with U.S. support manifested by Warren Christopher's refusal to meet with Palestinian figures in Jerusalem. How do you view this difficult equation?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As I said, our principal weapon is to unify the popular position on Jerusalem and draw up a national plan for the protection of Jerusalem. We have raised this issue with many Arab countries so that they will bear their responsibilities in protecting the city's Arab-Palestinian feature. As for the political level, we have clearly and unambiguously stressed to all international parties that the Palestinians will not recognize any formula that separates the religious and political aspects

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of the Jerusalem issue. We emphasized that this is one issue, it is inseparable, and that there should be no division between the political and religious aspects. We stressed that the Islamic and Christian holy sites are important for us, that Jerusalem is Arab territory occupied by Israel in 1967, and that its fate must be decided in the peace talks just as any other city.

[Siyam] Then, can it be said that you will treat the Oslo accord as a thing of the past if Israel does not pledge to solve the Jerusalem issue justly and objectively?

['Abd-Rabbuh] If it does not do so, Israel would be dealing a fatal blow to the Oslo accord.

[Siyam] Have you raised the Jerusalem issue with Jordanian officials, especially after King Husayn's speech before the House of Representatives regarding the separation of the political and religious aspects of the holy city?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are engaged in an ongoing dialogue with our Jordanian brothers. A few days ago the head of the PLO political department was in Jordan. All issues relating to the political process—whether on the Palestinian or Jordanian side, including the position on Jerusalem and the Islamic waqf—should always be discussed between us and Jordan so that we will have a unified position vis-a-vis Israel. At the same time, we proceed from the premise that issues which concern the Palestinian people and their land, including the holy religious sites, are foremost of all a Palestinian responsibility.

[Siyam] Some people believe that quick progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track might be at the expense of the Palestinians, especially as there are many pending problems between them and Israel such as the issue of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the refugees.

['Abd-Rabbuh] We must seriously examine what has been reached between the Jordanian and Israeli sides. Naturally, matters that concern Jordan are a purely Jordanian affair. We welcome any progress on any of the Arab negotiating tracks with Israel, but within talks on a lasting and comprehensive peace. We always try to avoid confusion in positions or any misunderstanding with the Arab brothers while affirming the common pan-Arab interests.

[Siyam] But will you oppose the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Israel before you finish your negotiations over the final stage?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As I said, this is a Jordanian affair. We have, however, stressed and continue to stress to the Arab brothers the need to differentiate between the nature of a Palestinian solution and the nature of a solution on the other Arab fronts. The Palestinian solution will begin discussing the final shape two years from now. At that point we will be on the same level with our Arab brothers. Peace in the region must be comprehensive, and all the parties must participate in it on the basis of implementing Resolution 242, which guarantees Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, foremost of all holy Jerusalem.

[Siyam] Then you are asking the Arab brothers to delay normalization with Israel until the Jerusalem issue and other pending issues are resolved?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We hope that Arab-Israeli peace agreements are reached that ensure total withdrawal from all the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif on Palestinian Stand

JN2807182694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Report by 'Urayb al-Rantawi from Amman]

[Text] The clause on Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli [Washington] Declaration has received broad attention on official and media levels in Jordan, particularly in light of the repercussions it has raised in the Palestinian political arena. It has been noticed that political circles in Amman are trying to limit the repercussions this clause may have on Jordanian-Palestinian relations. They are reiterating that the Washington Declaration's mention of Jerusalem is just a confirmation of the current status and is an Israeli recognition of the present Jordanian role in taking care of the holy shrines in the city, while the political dimension of the issue will remain subject to negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The sources added that, by the decision on the legal and administrative disengagement with the occupied territories, Jordan has given up its political sovereignty over Jerusalem to only Arab sovereignty over the city.

On the other hand, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has warned against falling into the Israeli trap seeking to drive a wedge in Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, Abu-Sharif said occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state, has been and will continue to be a Palestinian responsibility. This does not mean, for one moment, that the Arab and Islamic world should not assume its responsibility for terminating the Israeli occupation of the city and returning it to Palestinian sovereignty.

Abu-Sharif said he regrets the absence of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO, particularly on issues of mutual interest, foremost being the Jerusalem issue. He said the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people is above all other considerations, and that distinguishing between Palestinians and Jordanians does not serve the interest of any of the two fraternal people.

President 'Arafat's adviser called for urgent high-level Jordanian-Palestinian meetings to discuss these points and to reach a common understanding on them to block

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Israel's attempts to deal with every Arab party alone and drive a wedge between Arabs.

The Palestinian official said the results of the Washington negotiations between Jordan and Israel are an important phase in the efforts of the Palestinian command to complete the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and to enable the Palestinian people to regain all their national rights on their soil, particularly their right to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Sharif said a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will result from a comprehensive solution on all fronts. He said that a peace agreement with Israel cannot be concluded without reaching a solution on all the tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Sha'th Stresses Sovereignty

NC2807165994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has stated that Palestine's request for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the issue of Jerusalem was not aimed at provoking a battle with Jordan. Rather, the request was made to reiterate the Arab commitment regarding the Christian and Islamic sites in Jerusalem, Dr. Sha'th added.

In a statement at the end of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo today, Dr. Sha'th said: We need a fresh Arab commitment that would confirm that the Palestinians are the holders of sovereignty over Jerusalem. Regarding the final status of Jerusalem, he said there will be an international commitment to the Palestinians' responsibility and their right to all of east Jerusalem.

Continuing his statement, Dr. Sha'th said that he had met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for two hours yesterday, during which they discussed this issue in-depth. He affirmed that Egypt's commitment to this issue is unwavering.

Dr. Sha'th said: We do not want an inter-Arab battle. Instead, we need a commitment to the effect that the Palestinians are the source of sovereignty and that the final status of Jerusalem should be negotiable. He said that there is a comprehensive Arab commitment to the Islamic and Christian holy places.

'Arafat Reiterates Position

JN2807204194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jul 94

["Excerpt" of speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, at a meeting with Palestinian Red Crescent Central Committee members in Gaza on 28 July—recorded]

[Text] Everyone was amazed that Gandhi launched a six-month intifadah. The entire world wrote about Mahatma Gandhi's six-month intifadah. Here we are in our seventh year. Is this something negligible? This Palestinian child with the sacred stone has perpetuated the intifadah for seven years, brothers. There are 137,000 detainees. There are 118,000 wounded in the intifadah, including a large number of handicapped. Brothers, you know all this. We have 8,000 cases of miscarriage during the intifadah. This means the killing of 8,000 children. Brothers, our people are a people of exceeding strength. [Koranic verse] Who are the people of exceeeding strength? You are the people of exceeding strength. Are there any other people of exceeeding strength? You are this people.

Brothers, the conspiracy began in 1897. Ask Herzl. A land without a people for a people without a land. Is this not how they said it? In 1917, they called us minorities. The Balfour Declaration described us as minorities. In 1947 they partitioned our country, and in 1967 they occupied the entire country. They thought that was it. Brothers, I think that the Beirut battle was the longest and most honorable battle [applause] during which they failed to defeat us. In the Beirut battle, we suffered 72,000 killed or wounded; two-thirds Palestinians and one-third Lebanese. My Lebanese allies told me: Abu-'Ammar, this is enough. What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for an Arab army? If so, we will wait with you. If you are waiting for a Soviet army, we will wait with you. What are you waiting for? I say this just to mention that we fight for the Arab capitals to confront this ogre.

Brothers, you do not know this, we offered 172 martyrs and wounded for the Beirut garbage dump. We say that we fight for the sake of the Arab land, wherever it may be. Now that some people say they want the Muslim shrines, I would like to ask how many martyrs fell in defense of Jerusalem? No, the Christian shrines come before the Muslim shrines [applause].

I would like tell you something that, perhaps, I have not said before. Brothers, I have a document from the Israelis they have signed with me. It says: The Christian and Muslim shrines. They brought it to me. I spent 10 days arguing with them to mention the Christian and Muslim shrines. I told them: The Christian and Muslim shrines. This is so because we are committed to Caliph 'Umar's covenant [applause]. We are loyal to the covenant concluded between Safronius and 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab. We are loyal to this covenant. The document actually mentioned the Christian and Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem does not just consist of a mosque and a church. No, this is the holiest of places. Glory to God who did take his servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the al-Aqsa Mosque whose precincts we did bless. [Koranic verse] The other Koranic verse:

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But we delivered him and his nephew Lut and directed them to the land that we have blessed for the nations. [Koranic verse]

Therefore, Jerusalem is not only a place. It has to do with geography, politics, religion, nationalism, and patriotism. This is Jerusalem, the holiest of places, and the capital of the state of Palestine, whether they like it or not. [applause]

Al-Tarifi Comments

NC2907074294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, general coordinator of the Palestinian civilian authorities and PNA member, in Ramallah, by Tayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Miliji] Minister, tell us about the declared U.S. position on Jerusalem.

[Al-Tarifi] The U.S. position reconfirms the U.S. stance that Jerusalem and the status of Jerusalem will be discussed in the final stage between the PLO and Israel. This is one of the subjects left for the negotiations on the final stage. In our view, as Palestinians, as you know and as we have often made clear, Jerusalem is the capital of the future state of Palestine, God willing. So we cannot abandon Jerusalem in this situation.

[Al-Miliji] Perhaps what was contained in the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel is what stirred up the issue of Jerusalem again.

[Al-Tarifi] Actually, I hope a Palestinian delegation might go to Jordan to meet his majesty the king to ask him exactly what took place in Washington and what was negotiated on Jerusalem between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Al-Miliji] Minister, your answer raises the question: Is there coordination between you and Jordan? Was there such coordination before the Jordanian monarch's meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Al-Tarifi] No Palestinian-Jordanian coordination took place before the meeting. As you may remember, His Majesty King Husayn often reiterated that sovereignty over Jerusalem is for God and there is no other sovereignty over Jerusalem but God. We say that Jerusalem is Palestinian territory and is part of the territory of the Palestinian authority and will be the capital of the future state of Palestine, God willing. Sovereignty over Jerusalem will be Palestinian. Consequently, the existence of the holy shrines in Jerusalem does not mean that it is no longer part of the sovereign Palestinian area. As you know, Mecca and Medina are also holy places for all Muslims in the Islamic world. Over 2 million Muslims go to Mecca on pilgrimage every year. But no one can say that these areas are not Saudi and do not come under Saudi sovereignty.

[Al-Miliji] Minister al-Tarifi, the Jordanian monarch said before his visit to the United States that the issue of Jerusalem can be discussed with Israel in the religious aspect only. Now the U.S. State Department spokeswoman says that the article contained in the Washington Declaration deals with the religious aspect. What is your comment?

[Al-Tarifi] What I am afraid of is that a rift will begin to emerge between us and Jordan on the issue of Jerusalem. Then we would lose Jerusalem as Muslims, Arabs, and even Christians, especially after the Israeli prime minister said he emphasized to King Husayn that this city would remain the eternal united capital of Israel. I think any talk of Jerusalem must begin with the Palestinians. I also think that a high-level Palestinian delegation must go to Jordan to hold talks with the Jordanian Government and his majesty the king to clarify issues to avoid a rift that would benefit Israel, with Jerusalem becoming the ultimate victim.

[Al-Miliji] Minister al-Tarifi, as a member of the Palestinian National Authority, have you not made such a proposal to Palestinian president 'Arafat?

[Al-Tarifi] The Palestinian Authority is discussing many issues. I hope a decision in this regard will be made. [passage omitted]

Sha'th on Israel-Jordan Agreement, Empowerment

TA2907064794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Cairo, by 'Ido Baum and Ge'ula Even in the studios—live, in English]

[Text] [Baum] Dr. Sha'th, first of all we would like to ask you what is your response to the series of terror attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets all over the world?

[Sha'th] This is something to condemn with everything we have. These are crimes, killing innocent people, attempting to destroy the peace process. They are crimes of the worst kind. I condemn them with all my heart and I hope all decent people in the world will do their best to stop these killings.

[Baum] What is the importance of the urgent meeting that we are hearing of today, that Chairman 'Arafat wants to hold with Jordanian King Husayn?

[Sha'th] We don't want to make a problem with King Husayn. We were, as you know, very happy that he made the step to Washington, and Mr. 'Arafat, myself, and everybody congratulated Israel and Jordan for the achievement that it made in moving toward a comprehensive peace by the event in Washington. But we have many questions to ask about why the inclusion of the

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Jerusalem section in the Jordanian-Israeli accord and how does this effect the DOP [Declaration of Principles] that we signed with Israel which gave us the right to negotiate Jerusalem in the permanent status.

[Baum] Is 'Arafat going to invite Husayn to visit the holy places in Jerusalem, like he claims he has the entitlement to do?

[Sha'th] This was really a response to the question of Mr. Rabin inviting King Husayn. In the historical sense, I think 'Arafat has that right.

[Even] We would like to ask you now about the decision to close the newspaper AL-NAHAR; who made the decision?

[Sha'th] I have no idea.

[Even] Is it 'Arafat?

[Sha'th] I didn't even know that it was closed.

[Baum] AL-NAHAR was not closed. Actually it was banned from distribution in the Gaza and the areas of the autonomy. Is that a freedom of the press breached, as you see it?

[Sha'th] I don't see the need to close any paper or ban any paper. I think freedom of expression has to be preserved, even when newspapers make errors and mistakes, these mistakes have to be corrected by going to the court, but not by banning them.

[Baum] Last question, Dr. Sha'th: Can you estimate today what was the effect of the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian declaration on the current negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] I really have not seen a connection either way. Before and after the signing Dani Rothschild and I have been negotiating in Cairo with two big delegations, and we have been doing progress. I think we have finished more than two thirds of the assignment that was given to us for early empowerment, and I hope within the coming two weeks we will finish it.

[Even] When are you coming back to the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] In a few hours.

'Arafat To Visit Jordan, Discuss Future Ties

JN2807150094 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman after King Husayn of Jordan returns from his current visit to Washington to discuss the future of Palestinian-Jordanian relations against the backdrop of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement to end the state of belligerency.

Leading Palestinian sources told AL-BAYAN 'Arafat fears the Jordanian-Israeli agreement has pulled the rug from under his feet and undermined his plans to establish a Palestinian state. These sources revealed 'Arafat wants to reach an agreement specifying the future of relations between the Palestinian areas and Jordan and that the PLO prefers a confederation.

'Pro-Jordanian' Publications Banned in Autonomy

'Arafat Bans AL-NAHAR

TA2807122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat last night banned the distribution of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-NAHAR in the Gaza Strip today. A senior Palestinian source told our correspondent Moti Amir that the paper will not be distributed in Jericho either as of tomorrow because this paper is known for its pro-Jordanian stands.

The source explained to our correspondent that this is a first step by the PLO against pro-Jordanian institutions in the territories, taken in the wake of the Washington agreement. The official reason for which the distribution of the paper was banned was that its distribution license has expired.

'Abd-Rabbuh To Revoke Ban

JN2807183194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the official in charge of culture and information at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said the ban on the circulation of the Jerusalem-based newspaper AL-NAHAR in the Gaza Strip today has not been officially endorsed. He announced he will revoke this measure.

For her part, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, general commissioner of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said this measure is illegal. She underscored the need to respect freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

In a statement to our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, Dr. 'Ashrawi said banning the circulation of newspapers, denying access to information, and censoring publications are all unacceptable, because they run counter to basic freedoms and rights, which the PNA must cherish and respect.

'Arafat Orders Paper 'Closures'

TA2807164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat today ordered the closure [as heard] of the East Jerusalem paper AL-NAHAR, and Palestinian policeman confiscated copies of the paper that reached Gaza. Several Palestinian leaders severely criticized the move, saying this is political censorship that was imposed because the paper is pro-Jordanian. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

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[Passage omitted] Palestinian sources reported that 'Arafat was very mad over the fact that AL-NAHAR did not carry his reaction to The Washington Declaration which Jordan and Israeli signed. They believe this is the reason for the serious steps 'Arafat decided to take against the paper, which has always been pro-Jordanian. According to the sources, the paper copies will be confiscated tomorrow in Jericho as well. They added that Fatah activists in the territories were instructed to prevent the distribution of the paper at all cost, even if they have to burn the copies at the newspaper stands.

A senior Palestinian source in Gaza noted that 'Arafat also ordered the closing of the weekly AKHBAR AL-BALAD, owned by Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, King Husayn's adviser. They said these are initial steps, taken as part of a sweeping decision to restrict the activities of the King's supporters and pro-Jordanian institutions in the territories. This is in response to the sorry agreement, as they put it, Israel and Jordan signed in Washington, which gave Jordan priority over holy sites in Jerusalem.

Today, Yasir 'Arafat appointed Ahmad Bayyud al-Tamimi, an official of the Muslim waqf and director of the Muslim orphanage, in charge of the interior portfolio, that is—interior minister in the autonomy. Al-Tamimi accepted the appointment despite the fact that he is a waqf worker and his wages are being paid by Jordan. Following this, he was urgently summoned to Jordan for clarifications.

AL-NAHAR Not Distributed

TA2907082694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] AL-NAHAR was not distributed in the territories today. One of the newspaper's editors told our correspondent that he was ordered by one of the Palestinian leaders in Gaza not to distribute the newspaper today.

Radio Airs Syrian Criticism of Jordan-Israel Pact

AL-BA'TH Cited

JN2907095594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] For the first time, Syria has directly criticized Jordan for signing an agreement with Israel ending the state of war between the two countries.

The official newspaper AL-BA'TH described the agreement as a surprising development and a violation of the principles on which the Middle East peace process is based. Syria said that it is not in a hurry to establish an incomplete and distorted peace with Israel.

AL-BA'TH added: The confrontation which erupted between Jordan and the PLO against the background of the clause in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on granting Jordan special status to take care of the holy sites proves that separate agreements harm Arab interests. The proof of this is the eruption of the Jerusalem crisis between Jordan and the PLO at a time when the holy city is still under occupation.

The paper stressed its rejection of any peace agreements that are not based on restoring all the occupied territories.

TISHRIN Cited

JN2807115294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] On their front pages yesterday, the Syrian newspapers strongly criticized the Israeli-Jordanian summit which was held in Washington.

The newspaper TISHRIN described the day of signing of the agreement as a black day in the history of Jordan. The paper criticized King Husayn because he did this alone. It noted that the Jordanian political opposition to the agreement is escalating. The paper added: The unilateral agreements will never safeguard Arab rights or lead to a genuine peace.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH said: Syria's negotiating position is as strong as it has been. The paper, organ of the ruling party, added: No one can impose on Syria what it does not want, because it still holds the reins of power and the keys to security and stability in the region.

Radio Reports Jordan University Peace Protest

JN2807135794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] University of Jordan students staged a demonstration inside the university campus yesterday to protest the Jordanian-Israeli summit in Washington. During the demonstration, the students burned the Israeli flag and raised slogans hostile to Israel, interrupted by shouts of God is great.

In front of a crowd of students, the head of the student union council at the university denounced the Washington Declaration document, pointing out that it guarantees Israel's security and sovereignty over the Arab region and its resources, at present and in the future, at the expense of Arab sovereignty.

The head of the students union council wondered about Jordan's insistence on rushing to what he termed the massacre of peace, which will not stop at usurping the nation's rights. He added that Jordan has submitted to the U.S.-Israeli dictation.

In a statement distributed to the students, the student union council at the university appealed to the masses to reject normalization with Israel, which, apparently, will take place before a peace treaty is signed. The statement said this process is rapidly moving in a way that amazes the people.

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Yugoslav President Meets PLO 'Foreign Minister'

LD2807143394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1252 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 28 July (TANJUG)—On his way from Tripoli to Belgrade the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Zoran Lilic, and members of the Yugoslav delegation, Federal Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, stopped over in Tunis today.

Without prior announcement, PLO Foreign Minister Faruq al-Qaddumi arrived at Tunis airport to greet the Yugoslav president and his associates.

During brief talks they touched on the inevitable topic of the Bosnian crisis. Qaddumi said that the Palestinians are very concerned about the Yugoslav crisis, and especially the Bosnian conflict. He expressed their readiness to help find a peaceful solution.

Greeting the Palestinian foreign minister, Zoran Lilic stressed that Yugoslavia has always been a friend of the Arabs and expressed the hope that their friendship will be restored to previous levels of cordiality despite the current disagreements.

'Arafat Chairs Security Meeting in Gaza

LD2807184094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the executive committee of the PLO and head of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], chaired a meeting of senior officers of the Palestinian national security forces and Palestinian police in the administration building in Gaza yesterday evening.

Brother Brigadier Khalid Musmar, press spokesman for the security forces, told WAFA in a statement that the brother president briefed the officers on the general political outlook, particularly after new reports on the holy city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine.

It is an honor for us to defend Jerusalem. We will not compromise over it, he said. We insisted that the citizens of Jerusalem participate—in the nomination, election and voting—in the next legislative council elections in line with the declaration of principles agreement.

He said that 'Arafat had asked brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] to ask for an Arab League council meeting to discuss the issue of Jerusalem after the Israeli-Jordanian agreement was signed.

President 'Arafat spoke about the next phase saying: We are prepared to take over the authorities in the West Bank, and there are negotiations going on in Cairo with the Israeli delegation.

The brother president spoke of the many problems, particularly the financial ones, that we are facing. He said that some World Bank donor states were delaying paying their quotas, which put us in a difficult situation to pay for this stage's requirements. It seems to be an attempt to put pressure on us.

The brother president stressed to Brigadier Ziyad al-Atrash to follow up on efforts to allow brother Abu-Nidal (al-Maslamy) and his companions to enter Gaza, especially as they had previous approval. He considered that to be a violation of the agreement. He also asked that Palestinian health services begin providing services after 1400 when the health department closed its doors in all camps.

'Ashrawi Stresses Need for Elections in 1994

JN2807115894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has said that the general Palestinian elections have been postponed until mid-December 1994 due to the delayed redeployment of the Israeli Army in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi stressed the need to hold the elections this year. She accused the Israelis of obstructing the concluded agreement.

'Ashrawi added that the Israelis are talking about municipal, and not legislative elections.

Hamas Member Condemns Terror Against Jews

TA2807184994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] In Gaza, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member 'Umar Tarawinah, who was one of those deported to Lebanon, today condemned the terror attacks on Jewish and civilian targets. Hamas is opposed to occupation, he said, but Jews have the right to live wherever they wish.

[Begin Tarawinah recording, in English] Everybody condemns such attacks because it's against human beings, against innocent people. I condemn them, and I hope that everybody condemns such attacks. Hamas is a movement resisting occupation. I am resisting occupation; I am not against the Jews. The Jews have the right to live everywhere, exactly as a human being, as everybody. I can't justify attacking Jews at all. [end recording]

News Agency To Transmit 'Temporarily' From Gaza

JN2807114094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, has begun transmitting temporarily from the city of Gaza until it, along with the other media institutions, is moved to the city of Ramallah after the withdrawal of the Israeli Army.

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WAFA Editor-in-Chief Sulayman Ibrahim said that the agency will continue to publish its bulletin in the traditional manner, with the exception of making a few changes, such as the picture of an eagle which is the symbol of the state of Palestine, to its cover.

It is worth mentioning that the Palestinian News Agency was established in Beirut 1972, and was considered part of the Unified Palestinian Information Department, which includes all the PLO factions.

President 'Arafat had earlier called for reexamining the structure of the agency, and for drawing up a comprehensive plan for its administrative, news, and technical cadres.

Gaza's Municipal Council Holds First Meeting

LD2807191994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The municipal council for Gaza today held its first meeting after its formation. The meeting took place at the municipal building with the participation of President 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian National Authority.

The meeting discussed the problems the city is experiencing and the council's priorities regarding projects and services. In a statement to the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, after the meeting, Dr. Sa'ib 'Uraykat, the minister for local government and municipalities, said that President 'Arafat issued practical directives because of the scale of problems and destruction created by the occupation, particularly in the fields of environment, water, construction, and the road network. He went on to say that immediate work mechanisms are to be set up to deal with immediate issues, particularly the cleaning of Gaza.

An agreement was reached yesterday with Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac on the twinning of Paris with Gaza, as well as on the training of Palestinian cadres in various sectors. An agreement was also reached on the twinning of Dir al-Balah with the Spanish town of Barcelona.

Brother 'Uraykat said that consultations are currently under way in Gaza and in the West Bank to take practical measures aimed at providing municipal councils able to carry on their duties.

Regarding the Gaza municipality that was formed, President 'Arafat said today that it was a temporary committee until elections are held.

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Algeria

FIS Member Sees Little Hope for Negotiation

LD2807162294 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The guest of Afrique Midi is Abdelbaki Sahraoui, who was a member of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leadership before it was banned. [passage omitted] Jerome Bastion met Abdelbaki Sahraoui. According to Sahraoui, the FIS has no reason for attacking foreigners, but no talks with the Algerian leaders can take place without consulting the clandestine armed groups. Abdelbaki Sahraoui:

[Begin recording] [Sahraoui] The FIS has no interest in killing foreigners or any other people. The responsibility falls on the regime that has been ruling Algeria for 30 years now. It is this regime that started this massacre and triggered the whole thing, and it is this regime that must answer for everything.

[Bastion] The number of violent attacks has been increasing in Algeria and everybody knows that they have been carried out by Islamic armed groups. Does the FIS intend to win its war against the regime by military means?

[Sahraoui] I do not think the FIS will militarily win the current war in Algeria, but I think it has managed to check the regime, and the Army of the regime is incapable of putting an end to this process.

[Bastion] Do FIS leaders have any political means for stopping or reducing violence within the framework of a political agreement or political negotiations?

[Sahraoui] Yes, this is possible, but the Army and the Algerian regime should first show evidence and give a guarantee that they seek solutions for Algeria. It is true that groups of the Islamic Salvation Army [as heard] and the Islamic Armed Group are sprouting everywhere with acts of terrorism, but one should not forget the terrorism carried out by the Army, the police, and the so-called Ninja groups with their masked men. The Army has created more victims than the Islamic Salvation Army.

[Bastion] The only concrete gesture on the part of the Algerian regime toward the start of a dialogue was the release of Mr. Djeddi and Mr. Boukhemkham, members of the FIS Eshoura Council. Was this gesture followed by other moves?

[Sahraoui] No, I think it was a drop in the ocean. Between 15,000 and 20,000 people are still held in concentration camps in the south of the country and the prisons are filled with FIS sympathizers. Tell me what benefit there is in talking to the government? There is no benefit. Is it possible—in these circumstances—to find a solution?

[Bastion] Were Djeddi and Boukhemkham carrying a message for the FIS?

[Sahraoui] Absolutely not. First, they never knew [word indistinct], second, these two members of the Majlis Eshoura represent only a tiny minority of the people. The regime knows where to find interlocutors, it knows where to find the FIS representatives to whom it can talk.

[Bastion] Are the representatives of the FIS in the mountains?

[Sahraoui] No, as we said, we should be allowed to meet under security guarantees. We can, for instance, meet and organize a meeting of the Majlis Eshoura, composed of more than 30 members, and consult with the militants.

[Bastion] Are the two main currents of the FIS in agreement over the attitude to adopt?

[Sahraoui] Yes, yes they agree and they especially agree to dislodge these military men who have been clinging to power by force and this is the problem of Algeria. The problem is in the injustice and the Algerian people want to [word indistinct]. Look at Zeroual, what did he say when he took over? He has always said the same thing: The Algerian people are seeking a new direction, we have to radically finish with the methods of the past, etc. What has he offered? Nothing! [passage omitted]

[Bastion] Are you optimistic about the period of transition as it looks now?

[Sahraoui] I am not that optimistic. I am afraid that things will lead to revolution, a revolution in which nobody is in control of anything, neither us, the government, nor anybody else, because when people unleash their anger, you know what it is like! [end recording]

Council Passes Draft Government Program

LD2807223194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Announcer-read throughout]

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers meeting was chaired by head of state Liamine Zeroual. The council heard a report presented by the head of government on its activities during recent weeks, and the council studied and passed the draft order related to insurance, which is aimed at adapting the organizational and legislative laws currently in force to the new legislation including economic reform. [passage omitted]

In addition to these subjects, the Council of Ministers studied and passed the draft government program for the transitional period, which will soon be presented to the Transitional National Council. In this regard, the head of state gave definite directives to implement this program in the field in order to achieve the aims of the transitional period by rejoining everyone's efforts. In this regard, the head of state stressed that the program for the transitional period that we are passing today has been the subject of numerous discussions at the level of

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the government and now requires that we pass on to the period of implementation and ensuring that all the commitments included in this program are respected.

On the security aspect of the program, the head of state stressed that it was necessary to restore security and peace to civilians throughout national territory, which means that the security forces should be supported and strengthened through the working program of all the ministerial sectors.

The head of state called for more attentive efforts to the complaints and concerns of citizens, to make them feel included in the government's aims, keeping them informed, so as to isolate the enemies of the nation in society.

Therefore, I stress once again my appreciation of this dynamic endeavor and encourage you to continue on this course. You must continue your field visits so that the citizens feel the presence of the state in places where they are facing their daily problems. These visits must always be followed by tangible measures or decisions aimed at improving the situation of the people.

On the economic side, there must be mobilization beginning now on the economic aims of the program and particularly those aims related to the economic revival. Proceeding from this, there must be no delay in implementing the housing program, especially social housing; all obstacles facing this vital area must be removed. I will continuously follow up the progress achieved in this field, to which I accord the utmost importance.

Notwithstanding the pivotal role that can be played by small and medium companies in economic revival, the private economic operators, who constitute the majority of the sector, are still facing a number of difficulties at the level of banking, customs, and administration, a situation that might harm the national economy at a time when such a sector can contribute a great deal to supplying the market, creating new employment posts, and bolstering exports other than oil.

As far as agriculture is concerned, it was asserted that it should be liberated from the shackles of bureaucracy and furnished, on a regular basis, with the necessary materials, equipment, and spare parts needed by farmers to carry out their activities. Also, flexibility ought to be introduced into the channels of supply. The monopoly of the latter must be ended. Private operators ought to be encouraged to invest in this sector.

The agreement with the IMF assumes an important place in the economics of the transitional period. In this respect, a followup committee has been set up to monitor this agreement, so that we can be prepared when the decision to implement the agreement is made. The first phase of the agreement will be introduced in September 1994.

As far as the social impact of these measures is concerned, I would like here to stress that we ought to draw lessons from our previous experiences, when we introduced previous measures and made the necessary amendments in order to make provisions for people without income throughout the country.

I have already stated that the state will shoulder all its social responsibilities and will not spare any effort in order to bring about national solidarity and social justice.

As far as the commercial sector is concerned, I would like to reiterate here the urgent need to make sure that the market is fully supplied with the necessary commodities. The scarcity of a number of commodities, witnessed recently, cannot have an acceptable explanation. Therefore, our import policies must go through radical reforms. Initiative must be liberalized, and competition between qualified and sincere importers must be introduced. However, local and foreign opportunists, who are lying in wait to exploit our people, must be barred. [passage omitted]

I would like to emphasize, in conclusion, that you should explain this program to members of the Transitional National Council. I am convinced that the examination of such a program will only enhance the government's prospects and efforts.

Minister Denies Corruption Charges

LD2907014694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Minister of Industrial Reconstruction and Participation Mourad Benachnou today denied having had anything to do with the prefabricated American houses as reported by the media in the past few days.

In a denial to the Algerian Press Service, Benachnou stressed that he had not taken part in that operation, its construction, selection of selling agent, negotiation on the contract, or signing.

Benachnou was accused in an article published in the daily EL WATAN that said he had not taken part in defending the deal, which had not been discussed at any time by the council of government.

Benachnou denied that he had threatened to resign unless the deal was signed. He also denied any intervention by him at the World Bank to obtain a private loan. He stressed he had never worked as a long-term or short-term consultant for the World Bank.

Security Forces Kill 7 'Terrorists'

LD2807124494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] A communique from the security services today states that between last Sunday [24 July] and Tuesday [26 July] the security forces killed seven terrorists in Constantine, Skikda, Zeralda, and Algiers.

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Egypt

Mubarak, Rabin To Meet in Tabah 31 Jul

NC2907095794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Official sources at the Foreign Ministry have stated that President Husni Mubarak will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tabah on Sunday. The same sources say that Mubarak and Rabin will discuss developments in the peace process and efforts to promote it along every track.

Israeli Oil, Tourism Overtures Reportedly Rejected

JN2707154394 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 25

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt has refused an Israeli request for additional sales of Egyptian oil. Israeli oil prospecting firms have also been denied permission to operate in Egypt in return for deliveries of fixed supplies of oil, as is the case with other companies operating in Egypt.

In a request to the Egyptian Government last week, Israel said it wanted the extra oil for several new projects in Tel Aviv and the occupied West Bank. Israel was told that Egypt would only meet its commitment under an existing bilateral agreement. Israel was also told that any additional oil supplies would have to be negotiated and signed as a new pact. Egypt would have to assess its domestic market requirements and consider the needs of countries with which it has export contracts.

During his recent visit to Cairo, Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was told that in the area of prospecting for oil and minerals, the Egyptians now tended to rely on national companies.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt has asked Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to postpone a visit he was to have made to Egypt this weekend.

Before they give the go-ahead for the visit, according to Egyptian sources speaking to AL-ITTIHAD, the Egyptians want to wait for the findings of a study expected to be undertaken by a government commission to review the state of the whole gamut of relations with Israel after the Camp David agreements.

Meanwhile, Egyptian security agencies have recommended that the country's Ministry of Tourism turn down an application by 'Assaf Yajuri [name as transliterated], an Israeli military officer taken prisoner by Egypt in the October War. Yajuri applied for permission for a consortium of Israeli investors to team up with Egyptian financiers from northern Sinai to set up an international tourist village in al-'Arish area.

'Assaf Yajuri is persona non grata to the Egyptians, and his prospective Israeli partners in the proposed joint venture held important posts in the Israeli military and Mosad. Such credentials raise a question in Egypt about the motives underlying such a project in Sinai, according to the Egyptian security authorities.

Suspected 'Militants' Wound 3 Policemen 28 Jul

NC2907093094 Paris AFP in English 0617 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, July 29 (AFP)—Suspected Muslim militants opened fire on three policemen in southern Egypt Thursday night, lightly wounding them, the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) reported Friday.

The policemen, two captains and one private, were walking down a road in the province of al-Minya, about 240 kilometers (149 miles) south of Cairo, when the gunmen ambushed them.

The militants fled the scene.

Both the captains were wounded in the arms, while the private received injuries in the thigh.

Police are combing the area for suspects, MENA reported.

Egypt has been plagued with militant violence since March 1992. Nearly 400 people have died since then.

President's Office Denies Press Secretary Fired

NC2807154394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The Office of the President has described a report published by the AL-AHRAR newspaper on the dismissal of Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, President Husni Mubarak's press secretary, as completely untrue.

In response to what the newspaper recently published on its front page regarding this dismissal, the Office of the President clarified that the assignment of Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im—originally an employee of AL-AHRAM—to serve as press secretary at the presidential office was for a temporary period, as assignments by nature are. With the period of the assignment over, it was only natural for Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im to return to his original job at AL- AHRAR. This shows that the aforementioned report in the newspaper is baseless; it is not true that he was dismissed.

The Office of the President said that during his assignment, Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im performed his duties conscientiously and honestly.

Cabinet Discusses Economic, Political Reports

NC2807182194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. It discussed a report by Dr. Kamal al- Janzuri, the deputy prime minister and

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planning minister, dealing with the negotiations held in Washington recently between an Egyptian economic delegation and IMF and World Bank officials.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said al-Janzuri's report revealed that the IMF and the World Bank are aware of the positive results of the Egyptian economic reform program, its success in stabilizing the Egyptian pound's exchange rate, and controlling the budget deficit, lowering inflation, improving the performance of public business sector companies, and abolishing restrictions on Egyptian exports.

The report added that the negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank did not refer to any possible intervention by these organizations in specifying the exchange rates of foreign currencies inside Egypt.

The information minister said the Cabinet also discussed a report by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi affirming the stability of the domestic front. The report said this stability is a result of the public's understanding that the state's efforts to defend the people's security are serious and that the economic reform programs take social conditions into account.

The interior minister's report states that the pillars of terrorism have been destroyed and terrorist schemes have been foiled, as shown by the recent reduction of terrorist operations. The report says that the fight against terrorism will continue with backing from the public and all of society's and the state's institutions.

In this connection Dr. 'Atif Sidqi praised the nationalistic attitudes that became apparent during the National Dialogue General Congress, showing a national consensus on rejecting terrorism and confronting it by all possible means.

The Cabinet stressed the need to continue confronting any new terrorist plans to undermine Egypt's security or to damage its reputation.

The interior minister's report also referred to Egypt's success in developing its relations and promoting security cooperation with regional and international parties.

The information minister added that the cabinet also reviewed a report by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa that refers to the recent progress made by the peace process through the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Washington agreement. The report also refers to the recent Egyptian-Syrian summit talks and the result of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East.

The Cabinet declared its support for all positive steps on the way to a comprehensive and just Middle East peace. It announced that the final status of Jerusalem must remain a subject of negotiation among the concerned parties.

The Cabinet emphasized Jerusalem's importance to the Arab, Islamic, and Christian worlds.

The foreign minister's report also deals with the results of the meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories and Egyptian-EU cooperation.

It deals with Egyptian-Sudanese relations and Egyptian-Palestinian economic negotiations.

It also presents a comprehensive review of economic and social conditions in Africa.

The information minister said that the cabinet also reviewed a report submitted by himself dealing with Egypt's image abroad as portrayed by news agencies and the international press. The report notes the international news community's commendation of President Mubarak for winning the international population award and the choice of Egypt as a venue for next September's UN International Conference on Population and Development.

The report says that the international press noted that Egypt's image abroad has improved in connection with its domestic political conditions, the success of the Egyptian security forces in controlling extremist groups, its successful economic reform program, and the attendant positive economic results.

The information minister concluded his remarks by announcing that the Cabinet approved several economic, technical, and media cooperation agreements between Egypt and Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Malta.

He added that the Cabinet also approved several loan and grant agreements between Egypt and several international financial institutions and some countries to finance Egyptian economic and social development projects.

Plan To Tax Deposits, Devalue Pound Denied

NC2907111394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad al-Barbari, deputy governor of the Egyptian Central Bank, has denied any intention by the Egyptian Government to tax deposits held with Egyptian banks. He noted the Economic Committee of the People's Assembly had previously turned down a bill submitted to that effect.

Al-Barbari pointed out that Egypt has rejected the IMF's recommendation to devalue the Egyptian pound because it did not see a good economic reason to do so. He added that the stability of the dollar's exchange rate against the Egyptian pound and the drop in the dollar's value abroad do not justify the IMF's request to devalue the pound by 25 percent.

In remarks to the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ today, al-Barbari noted that such a devaluation would mean an increase in the dollar's rate of exchange against the pound to trade for 4.25 pounds. He warned that devaluing the pound would mean a rise in the bill for Egypt's imports from $11 to $15 billions. It would also widen the

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deficit in the trade balance from $7.5 to $11.5 billions, thus turning the approximately $2.8 billion surplus achieved in the balance of payments into a new $2.2 billion deficit, which would at least double the current inflation rate, he added.

Al-Barbari pointed out that the Egyptian Government has answered the IMF's proposal to devalue the Egyptian pound by emphasizing that such a devaluation would mean "economic ruin" since Egypt is an importer of production necessities as well as foodstuffs. He noted that the economic sectors had sided with the government's view on the devaluation, which would be harmful to their activity. This is because the investors set up their projects according to feasibility studies based on the current exchange rates. Any drop in the pound's value would mean a loss to these projects, he added.

Al-Barbari assured Egyptians working abroad about their deposits in Egypt. He stressed that the Egyptian Government will not resort to administrative measures to interfere in the market and that it is determined to encourage the market mechanisms. He added: We realize that the mere rumor of a pound devaluation will affect the volume of remittances from Egyptians abroad, who will wait until a new rate is announced to send their remittances or convert their dollar savings to pounds, but there is no reason for concern. He cautioned against using the dollar as a "value repository" since this would create an increasing demand for the dollar, which would not be favorable for market stability. He noted that there is more demand for the Egyptian pound than for the dollar.

Western, Muslim Handling of Bosnian Problem Viewed

NC2907075994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR describes the current activity undertaken by the Western states in Bosnia as dubious and shrouded in dark shadows of suspicion. Most probably, the paper notes, this movement seeks to give the Serbs the opportunity to conduct an all-out ethnic cleansing operation against Muslims.

In its editorial today the paper points out that this activity started with the recommendation made by the UN secretary general to pull international troops out of Bosnia to be replaced by a force formed by member states of the contact group on Bosnia. This, the paper adds, is an explicit admission of the United Nations' failure to protect a member state that has asked for UN help to defend its people and independence. The paper emphasizes that the feeble UN stance has encouraged the Serbs to continue their barbarian crimes, practices defying all human feeling, and acts of aggression against relief convoys, which are denied access to Sarajevo to supply food and medicine to the besieged civilians there.

The paper criticizes the Islamic world's impotent position regarding these unfortunate developments in Bosnia. All the Muslims have done, the paper notes, is to sit back and watch, shedding crocodile tears over the blood of their fellow Muslims being shed in Bosnia.

Aspects of Washington Declaration Examined

NC2807202694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf]

[Text] Some aspects of the Washington Declaration, signed this week by King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, deserve a pause for comment.

Before we comment on these aspects, we must point out that Egyptian support for this decisive development on the Jordanian negotiating track proves yet again Egypt's credible role in seeking by all means and at all levels to attain a just and comprehensive Middle East peace. We do not believe that anyone can miss the significance of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus for general talks about the entire situation with President Hafiz al- Asad on the eve of the signing of the document ending the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel and Jordan's boycott of Israel.

The Egyptian-Syrian summit talks emphasized two points, first that fresh efforts must be made to promote peace on the Syrian- Israeli track and secondly that Egyptian assistance will be extended to Syria whenever this is necessary.

One should recall the Egyptian announcement supporting the Jordanian-Israeli achievement. It stated that this development has occurred in the land-for-peace context, a principle on which the Madrid Conference was convened and peace negotiations were started on various tracks. This implies the need to implement the land-for-peace principle on the Syrian-Israeli track in line with international legality.

We wish to make this clear. Progress in the Palestinian and Jordanian negotiations with Israel should not be used to pressure Syria and Lebanon to concede any of their legitimate rights. One basic fact cannot be circumvented under any circumstances: There can be no real peace between the Arabs and Israel unless all parties' legitimate rights are equally recognized.

It is known that the achievements of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, though important, are merely a first step on the way to peace. The Palestinians have a long and arduous journey ahead of them before regaining their identity and all their political and humanitarian rights.

To a certain extent, this also applies to the Jordanian track. Real peace does not merely mean ending the state of belligerency but should essentially involve agreement on internationally recognized borders and settling security, water, and other unresolved issues.

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We can add this important point: Any agreement over these issues must be internationally legal and acceptable to the Jordanian and Israeli people.

If we examine some of the noteworthy aspects of the Jordanian- Israeli agreement, we will find that it involves important indications about future regional peacetime relations. It is well known that as soon as the prospects of regional peace loomed, the idea of a Middle East market or community was proposed. In the future, Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli relations might have a special character in view of the special geographical and security factors involved.

An examination of the provisions of the Washington Declaration reveals a tendency toward interdependence in various vital spheres. This is a largely accurate indication of the Israeli concept of how its relations with its neighbors should be normalized. This is the most important aspect of the agreement.

The agreement's reference to Jerusalem comes second in importance. Put briefly, Egypt believes that Jerusalem must remain an issue under discussion. It believes that all the aspects of the regional issue, including the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, must be raised when the negotiations over Jerusalem are held. This is because Jerusalem concerns all the Arabs and Muslims, not merely Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

We wish to draw attention to the important statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that Israel proposes the establishment of an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian economic confederation and a Jordanian-Palestinian political union.

In this way, the aspects of a comprehensive Israeli strategy for peace with its neighbors are being gradually revealed.

Mauritania

Arab, Tuareg Refugees Accuse Mali of Massacres

94P50170 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by al-Shaykh Bakkay in Nouakchott]

[Text] Those coming from Mauritanian-Malian border regions have reported that around 100,000 Malian Arabs and Tuaregs have migrated to the eastern regions of Mauritania to escape communal massacres that have been perpetrated by the Malian Army against civilians since the breakdown of the agreement that had been concluded between the central government and the Azawad rebels. The new refugees include about 80,000 persons who, for years, have been living in camps that had been established for them there. Reports mention that it has not been officially confirmed that the Mauritanian Government has dispatched a mission consisting of the ministers of the interior and defense to examine the situation and to study ways to accommodate the exiles.

Rebel sources have estimated the number of those who had arrived as of 19 July at 100,000. AL-HAYAH has learned from special sources that the Mauritanian Government is thinking of establishing camps for the new exiles in the town of Oualata which is relatively far from the Malian border in an attempt to control them and to prevent them from undertaking retaliatory operations in the future. It is said that the Malian Government has repeatedly asked the Mauritanian Government to transfer the refugees from the border regions to the interior of Mauritania in order to prevent them from establishing a base for retaliatory operations against it. Well-informed sources have reported that the Mauritanian Government has sent military reinforcements to the region which is experiencing savage battles between the Azawadis and government forces. Since battles between government forces and the Azawad liberation fronts erupted again a month ago, Malian Arabs and Tuaregs have been fleeing from communal massacres that, according to Azawadi rebel sources, are being perpetrated by the Malian army against civilians in the Timbuktu, Kidal, and Gao Regions, which are situated in the north. Participating in acts of violence against the Malian Arabs and Tuaregs is the fanatical black Gandakoy Movement which was established in response to the Azawad separatist fronts. The movement calls for the expulsion of all non-black inhabitants from Mali. Its activity is being expanded to include Mauritanian nomads who, in some seasons, penetrate the Malian borders with their livestock in search of pastures.

Two years ago, large numbers of Malian Arabs and Tuaregs migrated to the regions of eastern Mauritania to flee from similar massacres that the Malian Government had acknowledged. About 80,000 of these are living in the towns of Bassikounou and Fassale in camps established by the Mauritanian authorities in cooperation with with the UN High Commission for Refugee Affairs.

Statement Issued on Minister's Visit to Kuwait

LD2807225094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] (?A joint statement) was issued after the official visit paid by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhel, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, to the brotherly State of Kuwait from 25-27 of July.

The statement stressed the need to strengthen and promote cooperation between the two countries. Here is the text of the statement, read by our colleague Tanda Abdallah:

[Abdallah] At the invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhel, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of

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the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, paid an official visit to the State of Kuwait from 25-27 of July 1994, leading a high-level delegation. [passage omitted]

Lekhel held talks with Shaykh al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the presence of the two countries' delegation.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and stressed the need to strengthen and promote them in a way that would bolster cooperation between them and achieve common interests.

The two sides examined the situation in the Gulf region. The Mauritanian side reaffirmed its unwavering stance regarding the independence of the brotherly State of Kuwait and its sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders in accordance with UN Resolution 833 on the final demarcation of the border between the State of Kuwait and Iraq. Mauritania also reaffirmed its support for all the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and the need to comply with these resolutions.

On the basis of the resolutions, the two sides reaffirmed their demand for the preparation of the conditions that would restore security and stability in all the countries of the region, including the settlement of the pending humanitarian issues—particularly the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees.

The two sides also stressed their commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

At the Arab level, the two sides stressed the need to make concerted efforts to support joint Arab action on clear bases and in a way that would take into consideration changes and developments in the Arab and international arenas. They stressed their support for the ongoing Middle East peace process and expressed their hope that bilateral talks would achieve major progress in all the tracks on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Postpones Council Elections 3 Months

EA2807162394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has reiterated that peace has been achieved in Sudan, in general. He said extensive areas in the south of the country had been brought under control, enabling the government to restore security and tranquility to the people of the south.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said in a recent interview with the Pakistani magazine, QADAYA DAWLIYYAH, that the issue of peace was among the most important issues affecting the revolution. He pointed out that the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states in this respect represented a positive step toward achieving peace in the south of the country.

Regarding the major achievements realized in the era of the national salvation revolution, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the country had been redivided into 26 states and the governments of the new [word indistinct] states carried out their work fully. His excellency explained that Sudan had achieved a high rate of success in the economic field. The rate of growth in the last three years had reached more than nine percent. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out the progress achieved in the area of eudcation and the expansion in health, water, and electricity services.

In the context of preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that no date had yet been fixed for holding state elections. He added that, although these elections were to have been held this year, the new administrative division necessitated a postponement of three months to enable the new states to hold their conferences and form their committees. He said state council elections would be held by the end of next March.

Garang Group Reportedly Declares Cease-Fire

EA2807195694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday's session continued until 2100. The discussion centered on the issues of self-determination and the transitional period. Another tripartite committee was set up by the parties to the dispute, under the chairmanship of the mediators, to summarize what took place in the general sessions, and to specify the points of agreement and disagreement, in order to narrow the gap between the two sides.

Late in the night of 26 July, John Garang's faction issued a statement in which it declared a cease-fire with effect from 0200 on 25 July. The statement said that the leadership had informed its units of the decision. It should be remembered that a spokesman from Garang's delegation had issued a statement in which he said that they rejected a cease-fire if it was not agreed upon at the negotiation table. According to the investigations of a reporter from AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, Ambassador Melissa Wells had held two meetings with each of the rebel factions separately. They had discussed what took place at the negotiations and the issue of the cease-fire. It has not been ruled out that Ambassador Wells exerted pressure on the rebels, and this is borne out by Garang's announcement of a retroactive cease-fire.

Ambassador Wells also held another meeting with Dr. Ali al-Hajj, the official government delegation spokesman. The meeting dealt with relief and humanitarian matters, which are expected to be on the agenda at another session tomorrow, in Nairobi.

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The minister of state at the Ministry of Planning, Ibrahim Abu- Awf, will arrive in Kenya to head Sudan's delegation in these discussions. This round is expected to discuss the corridors agreement on safe passage, which was signed at a previous session, and the rebel movement's violation of this agreement. The rebels looted two steamers, [tabaljiya] and plundered a relief train heading for Wau.

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Yemen

Northern, Southern Leaders To Continue Talks

NC2807203194 Paris AFP in English 2005 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Geneva, 28 Jul (AFP)—Northern and southern Yemeni leaders agreed on the need to continue reconciliation talks after a three-hour meeting here Thursday, UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said.

Brahimi said no date had been fixed for further talks and recognised that the two sides were still divided over the organisation of dialogue in the wake of their two-month civil war.

The two sides also agreed to keep in touch with Brahimi, who tried to broker a dialogue during the war.

Sanaa was represented by Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Iryani, while the southern side was represented by Haydar 'Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who headed the Aden government before the northerners' military victory.

Yemeni diplomats had said earlier that northern authorities refused to hold talks with representatives of the former breakaway south, insisting that discussions should be held in Yemen.

War broke out on May 5 between forces loyal to the fundamentalist President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of his southern, socialist, rival 'Ali Salem al-Bid.

It ended on July 7 when Salih's troops captured the key southern port of Aden.

Foreign Minister on Geneva Talks, Gulf Ties

NC2907070394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by al-Sayyid al-Jamal in Sanaa; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jamal] Minister Basindwah, welcome to Egyptian radio.

[Basindwah] Thank you for taking the initiative to come to Yemen to conduct a series of interviews.

[Al-Jamal] Let us begin with the latest news. Some say a Yemeni delegation is holding talks in Geneva with a delegation from the Yemeni opposition to achieve national reconciliation. What is your response to this?

[Basindwah] These are the words of the group of rebels who lost the battle and who now, along with the entire world, realize that Yemen's unity has triumphed. They want to give the impression that they still have a presence in Yemen but everybody knows that they do not control any land in Yemen and that some of them don't even represent their own party, which now seeks to dismiss and condemn them. What will happen in Geneva is that my colleague Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, along with our UN delegate 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, will leave for Geneva to meet His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, to inform him that preparations are under way to hold a dialogue in Sanaa with the unionist representatives of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. We are now waiting for the results of the YSP political bureau members' meeting in Damascus. Once they choose their representatives they will come to Sanaa to begin a dialogue with the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. But we are not prepared to hold any dialogue with [former Yemeni Prime Minister] Haydar al-'Attas or others, because he represents no one in Yemen. We would have accepted him as a representative of the YSP had he not backed the breakaway declaration. Now that he is one of the 16 figures summoned for (?questioning), I believe that he must first condemn the secession declaration and apologize to the Yemeni people. Then his case would be considered. As for now, I believe we are not required to sit down with al-'Attas or others who took part in the government of what was intended to be the Yemen Democratic Republic. It is not even logical.

[Al-Jamal] But there is a Yemeni delegation meeting with Brahimi in Geneva to initiate a dialogue between the YSP and representatives of the other parties in Yemen on consultations, coordination, and future diplomatic action. What is the UN role in this regard?

[Basindwah] A delegation is on its way to Geneva to inform brother Brahimi, personal envoy of the UN secretary general, that the file of the Yemeni issue must be closed, that there is no longer any justification for keeping it at the UN, and that the issue is now in the Yemenis' hands after security and stability have been achieved throughout Yemen.

[Al-Jamal] Is this the substance of the message you sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali?

[Basindwah] I believe the message is very clear. It states verbatim that the United Nations, as an international organization, has no role to play. If we need assistance from brother Dr. Butrus- Ghali or from brother Lakhdar Brahimi in view of their experience, we will not hesitate to ask for it, but on a personal level.

[Al-Jamal] Some Yemeni delegations have visited several Arab states, particularly the Gulf states. The Yemeni leadership is engaged in an extensive diplomatic offensive. What is the significance of these visits?

[Basindwah] By sending the delegations we wanted to explain the latest developments in Yemen and clarify things for the leaders of these sisterly states. I believe we have exerted enough effort to convince our brothers, particularly in the Gulf states, that our position was correct and that wagering on a bunch of rebels was a lost bet. I believe the ball is now in the court of the brothers, who should now, if they want, reciprocate our initiatives so that our ties can be strengthened.

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[Al-Jamal] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has reiterated that Yemen's relations with the neighbors and the brothers are normal and that Yemen is seeking stability in the Arabian peninsula and Gulf area. What is the significance of this statement?

[Basindwah] We have never stopped showing our good intentions toward our brothers in the Gulf area. We are constantly stressing that Yemen's role in strengthening stability and security in the Arabian peninsula and Gulf area will be an effective one. I see no reason to fear any Yemeni action, because Yemen needs to rally its efforts with those of its brothers in this area. I believe that any strength gained by Yemen will be strength for our brothers in the Gulf states and they must rest assured that Yemen will be a support for them. There is no reason for the estrangement that we sense from some of them or for some unacceptable and unjustifiable behavior.

[Al-Jamal] We have learned that you will visit Egypt soon and will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

[Basindwah] Egypt is the homeland of all the Arabs and the heart of the Arab world. The date for the visit to Egypt has not been set but it will take place soon. We are eager to see an initiative taken toward us by our brothers in the Egyptian leadership. We see no reason for any estrangement between us and Egypt. Egypt has been good to us. I hope the clouds that have darkened inter-Arab relations will disappear and our relations with Egypt will strengthen.

[Al-Jamal] How do you view Arab coordination and Yemen's return to the Arab fold to resume its role in a united Arab coordination that serves Arab interests?

[Basindwah] When was Yemen outside the Arab fold? Yemen is a state within the framework of the promising pan-Arab action. I had the honor of chairing sessions of the last Arab League ministerial council on 26 March 1994. My country's delegation played a positive role in bringing views closer and in mending the bridges between fraternal countries. I believe Yemen is in the Arab fold. Of course there is an abhorrent estrangement between us and some fraternal countries. It will disappear, God willing. It is a question of time. I believe that what has happened since the Gulf crisis and war must end but on the basis of frankness and full reconciliation.

[Al-Jamal] Minister Basindwah, diplomatic efforts usually end with positive results. The latest were the Egyptian efforts that overcame many difficulties between Israel and several Arab countries. The efforts led to the signing of the Palestinian self- rule agreement and Yasir 'Arafat's return to the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The active Egyptian role also brought the views closer between Jordan and Israel and this resulted in the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli Agreement in Washington. What is your country's political and diplomatic view of these issues and developments?

[Basindwah] Egypt has status and influence in the Arab region in particular and in many other areas, including Africa, in general. Egypt remains as it is, regardless of who is leading it. Egypt is a leading and pioneering country in the Arab region. No one disputes this. Any role played by Egypt in the Arab nation's interest is welcomed and appreciated by everyone. Regarding the conciliation between some Arab parties and Israel, this is the prerogative of each party, decided upon within the context of its national interests. We respect each Arab party's right to do what it wants but we are committed to the principle that a solution to the Arab conflict with Israel must depend on having all the Arab parties reach an agreement with Israel. You know that Syria has not yet reached an agreement with Israel. As long as an Arab party remains without an agreement with Israel or in a state of war with it, our stance toward Israel will remain as it is.

[Al-Jamal] We thank Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

[Basindwah] A thousand thanks and my greetings to all our brothers in Egypt, both Egyptians and Arabs.

Southern Leader on Geneva Talks, Salih Contacts

JN2707160494 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Jul 94 pp 1, 26

[Report by 'Ali al-'Amudi]

[Text] Salim Salih Muhammad, [former] member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has denied reports that the coming Damascus meeting will elect an alternative leadership to President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. He said the meeting is designed to gather YSP leaders spread throughout many Arab and foreign countries, particularly members of the YSP Political Bureau and some leading cadres in the southern areas, in order to discuss the situation and explore the future in the aftermath of the war .

In a telephone interview AL-ITTIHAD conducted with him in Jeddah, Salim Salih Muhammad said he, as well as the other southern leaders, are waiting with optimism for the expected UN-sponsored meeting to be held on 27 July in Geneva, instead of Paris, between the northern and southern delegates. He said the meeting will be held at the UN's European headquarters under the sponsorship of Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general within the framework of Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931.

Salim Salih Muhammad noted that the conferees will discuss two working papers—one from the North and the other from the South. However, he did not disclose the outlines of the southern paper which will be presented by southern delegate [former Yemeni Prime Minister] Eng. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

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Muhammad said al-'Attas will emphasize that the interest of all of Yemen should be taken into consideration first and that the mentality of illusionary victories should be avoided. He said: We call on Sanaa to end the state of emergency and to stop arrests, police raids, and plundering in Aden, al-Mukalla, and the other southern countries. We call on Sanaa to expel those who seized houses and property and to declare general amnesty. We also call on Sanaa to end the presence of party militias that are damaging people property and turning life in Aden and al-Mukalla into hell. He reiterated his call on Sanaa to achieve genuine national reconciliation and to hold a comprehensive national dialogue.

He said it is our priority to deal with the situation of the displaced southerners, particularly those still staying in Djibouti, the neighboring deserts, and Oman. He said that 700 southern military personnel and their families have been on a ship in the open sea for more than two weeks, in completely inhuman circumstances. He also said the ship is a military ship that is unsuited for civilian use. He appealed to Arab countries and the international community to save the displaced people and deal with their situation.

Regarding reports about the formation of a leadership structure in Sanaa to replace the YSP, Salim Salih Muhammad said: No one except the party's organizations and bases has such a right. The future of the party can be determined only by these organizations, which have the right to answer such questions and to deal with the current serious challenges.

Asked about reports of his contacts with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's, Salim Salih Muhammad denied any such contacts, and said: We only held unofficial contacts through unofficial persons.

Regarding a statement by Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, that the declaration of secession was not discussed at the Political Bureau's meeting, Salim Salih Muhammad said this issue would be left to history and that we are not writing that history.

Asked if some of the leaders of the Yafi' tribes, to which he belongs, met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to offer allegiance to him, Salim Salih Muhammad said: I personally welcome and bless that initiative because they saved their region from war after other fronts collapsed. I also support every step they or others have taken to prevent infighting and war among the sons of the one region.

Finally, we asked Salim Salih Muhammad if the Yemeni Reform Grouping will agree to the YSP's participation in the authority, although it believes YSP militias played a major role in the war. He said: We waged the war as two parts and two armies, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping's stand will not affect us.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2707194794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Jul (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Sanaa today on a visit of several days to Yemen, as an envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

He is visiting Yemen to extend congratulations from President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership and people to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni people on the triumph of the country's cause of unity, he said on arrival. The triumph of the cause of Yemeni unity is a triumph for all worthy people in the Arab world, as well as for Yemenis.

He will hold talks with Yemeni officials about issues of shared interest, Ramadan said. He called relations between Iraq and Yemen excellent and said the two countries share common objectives.

On hand to greet Ramadan on his arrival were 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd- al-Ghani, member of Yemen's Presidential Council, cabinet ministers, and members of the country's House of Representatives. According to an INA correspondent in Sanaa, crowds lined the street through which Mr. Ramadan's car drove from the airport.

Meets With Salih

JN2807190894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan at his Presidential Palace office in Ta'izz. Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani attended.

The Iraqi vice president relayed to the brother Presidential Council chairman the greetings and congratulations of his brother President Saddam Husayn, as well as those of the Iraqi leadership and people on ending the rebellion and internal sedition fomented by the secessionist rebels in our homeland in order to tear unity apart.

During the meeting, the fraternal bilateral ties and the means of promoting them were discussed. Recent Arab and international developments, as well as issues of common interest to the two fraternal Arab states and the entire Arab nation, were also addressed.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his happiness over his visit to our country, particularly since he is relaying the congratulations of the Iraqi leadership, government, and people to their brothers in the Republic of Yemen—leadership, government, and people—on the victory for unity achieved in Yemen, the victory that has entrenched this unity. He noted that Yemeni unity is a source of pride to all Arabs, and a pan-Arab gain for the Arab nation.

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For his part, the brother Presidential Council chairman expressed his appreciation of the stands of the fraternal Iraqis, led by brother President Saddam Husayn, who have been supportive of our people's march and unity. He noted the conspiracy targeted unity to tear it apart. He reiterated that the Yemeni people adhere to their unity, that they have defended it valiantly, and that they have made dear sacrifices to vindicate it, because it is the destiny and fate of the Yemeni people, not to mention the fact that it will open new vistas for them.

The brother Presidential Council chairman underlined that Yemeni unity is a factor of wellbeing, security, and peace for Yemen, the region, and all Arabs.

The brother president asked brother Taha Yasin Ramadan to relay his greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn, as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity to the fraternal Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Ta'izz Governor brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani, Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, and Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa Muhsin Khalil.

'Abd-al-Ghani Returns From Oman, UAE, Qatar

JN2707112994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, and his accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa last night following a four-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Qatar.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the brother member of the Presidential Council said: I have visited these fraternal countries leading a high-level delegation. During the visits, I conveyed messages from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to the brother leaders of these fraternal states on bilateral relations and developments in the national, Arab, and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Salih—More Than $3 Billion Lost in Fighting

JN2807125294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday met with the brother ulema, tribal chiefs, dignitaries, social figures, and representatives of political parties and organizations, as well as representatives of popular, creative, and vocational organizations, youths, and women in the governorate of Ta'izz.

He lauded the unionist spirit, the spirit of sacrifice and steadfastness, and the sincere support for the military effort which the sons of the Ta'izz Governorate showed in the defence of unity and while championing our people's will to preserve their unity and thwart the conspiratorial scheme against it. [passage omitted]

Salih added that the calculations of those who rebelled against legitimacy and of the secessionists were not accurate from the political, military, and media viewpoints and also in terms of foreign aid. They, along with those who supported them, did not take into account the Yemeni people. They did not take into consideration the fact that 14 million Yemeni citizens rallied around their unity, which is one of the sacred national constants that cannot be relinquished by our people at any cost. [passage omitted]

The brother Presidential Council chairman urged the brothers who fled abroad and who were misled by the elements of the rebellion and secession to return to the homeland and benefit from the general amnesty law. He said: These persons should benefit from the general amnesty law. No time period has thus far been fixed to stop enacting this law. These persons should return to participate in building their homeland. Excepted from this law are the symbols of secession who are wanted and who are now searching for houses close to the ousted al-Badr. They chose this fate when they defied the people's will and raised the slogan of rebellion and secession, so the people discarded them, and their fate will be the same as that of the ousted al-Badr, he added.

Salih pointed out that the war, which the rebels initiated and imposed on our people and homeland, has cost our people more than $3 billion. He indicated that a large percentage of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] members were supportive of secession. He said: Regrettably, after the situation was decided against the rebels and after unity was entrenched, we have not yet heard a single statement by any YSP member condemning the declaration of secession and rebellion. We wish the YSP would rearrange its situation properly and adapt itself to living under the new situation and under democracy and pluralism. We also wish the YSP would abandon its previous practices which brought great harm to it and to the homeland.

Salih indicated that our country appreciates its neighbors very much, asserting that Yemeni unity is one among the Yemeni people. This unity is not one between two countries or two peoples, but it is the unity of the one Yemeni family. This unity does not pose a danger or threat to anyone, and it is one of the basic factors designed to consolidate security, stability, and peace in the southern Arabian Peninsula and the region. Regardless of the leadership, the Yemeni people exist and so do our neighbors. Thus, all of us should coexist in peace and cooperation, he added. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Member Inspects Army Camps

JN2807144294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, accompanied by brother 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, an adviser to the Presidential

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Council and a member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress, and brother Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, the governor of Hadhramaut, have visited some Army camps during an inspection tour of Hadhramaut Governorate.

Addressing the commanders, officers, NCO's, and soldiers, brother al-Zindani conveyed the greetings and congratulations of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, on the occasion of the great victory over the forces of rebellion and secession. He spoke about the Armed Forces' tasks following the splendid victory over the forces of rebellion and secession—a victory achieved with the help of God and the heavy sacrifices of our Armed Forces personnel, the defenders of unity and constitutional legitimacy, and thanks to extensive popular cohesion. He indicated that the battle for comprehensive development and the entrenchment of security and stability is no less important than the battle to defend unity. He said the resolve with which our Armed Forces defended unity is now required to achieve overall development. He noted the political leadership's efforts to prepare programs and plans to develop our Armed Forces' capabilities and improve the living standard of Armed Forces personnel.

Concluding his address, brother al-Zindani said the Yemeni people will not forget the sacrifices its sons, the heroes of the Armed Forces, made to defend unity and protect constitutional legitimacy.

The camp commanders welcomed the visit by the Presidential Council member and his companions. They said Armed Forces personnel are ready to participate in the overall development process under the wise leadership of brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Brothers 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Haddi, and Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani also met with representatives of the (Siban wa Nuh) tribe in Hadhramaut's coastal district. Speeches on behalf of the tribe were delivered, explaining the problems facing the citizens and expressing absolute support for all measures taken by the political leadership to address the traces of the sedition imposed on our people by the gang of rebellion and secession. They said they fully support the Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy.

YSP Meeting in Cairo or Damascus Contemplated

NC2907085094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (MENA)—A responsible source at the Yemeni Embassy in Damascus has stated that an expanded meeting by leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is being contemplated for Damascus or Cairo with a view to laying down the party's future strategy for dealing with the new situation in Yemen.

Speaking to MENA correspondent here, the source said that changing the party's leadership will not be on the agenda of such a meeting. If it is agreed to hold the meeting in Damascus, Salim Salih, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and YSP assistant secretary general, will visit Syria for that purpose, the source added.

The same source noted that the decision to reinstate diplomats from southern Yemen at their positions in the Yemeni embassies abroad has already begun. These diplomats were suspended during the Yemeni war.

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Sudanese Industry Minister Mustafa on Visit

Discusses Commerce With Salih

EA2607171894 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jul (SUNA)—Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Taj Al-Sirr Mustafa, who is currently on a visit to Iraq, met Monday [25 July] in Baghdad with his Iraqi counterpart Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in fields of industry and commerce.

Dr. Mustafa got acquainted with Iraq's experiment in implementing rationing card and distributing foodstuffs. Meanwhile, Dr. Mustafa met with the Iraqi finance minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir and reviewed performance of the common committee between the two countries to fix a date for its coming meeting.

Dr. Mustafa confirmed Sudan's stance with Iraqi people and condemned sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Meets Ministers

JN2707125694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Industry and Minerals minister, has said that the Iraqi industrial institutions are ready to extend modern technical expertise to the Sudanese brothers in order to achieve industrial integration between both fraternal countries.

During his meeting with Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Taj al-Sirr Mustafa and his delegation today, Hasan added that Iraq managed to expand and promote its industrial base after implementing many industrial projects as part of the ongoing development march under the wise leadership of President leader Saddam Husayn despite the continued unfair blockade on our militant people.

Hasan said the Iraqi industrial sector has witnessed great development by relying on the national experience and capabilities in a way that serves other basic state sectors. He pointed out that the mujahidin are currently building the largest plant in Iraq specialized in manufacturing machines and equipment for production. He explained that there are 40 design and research centers dedicated to promoting the country's industrial base.

The Sudanese minister lauded the distinguished relations between the industrial institutions in both fraternal countries, as well as the role being played by the technical industrial office which the [Iraqi] Ministry of Industry and Minerals established in Sudan. He also lauded the extension of technical expertise to the Sudanese brothers. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization.

Within the same context, Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida today met with Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa. During the meeting, they discussed means of bilateral cooperation in the agricultural fields in a way that will benefit both fraternal countries.

Rida reviewed the repercussions of the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq in general and on the agricultural sector in particular, as well as on the Iraqi people's life due to the scarcity of agricultural goods.

The Sudanese minister asserted that his government and people support Iraq in confronting the unjust forces which seek to harm the Iraqi people's interests and undermine Iraq's national sovereignty.

Confers With Housing Minister

JN2707144094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—Today, Housing and Reconstruction Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad received Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the housing and reconstruction minister reviewed the reconstruction drive of the reconstruction mujahidin, drawing on their intrinsic resources and national engineering and technical skills to rebuild what the evildoers destroyed during the treacherous 30-state aggression.

Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa commended the reconstruction campaign carried out by Iraqis, despite the unfair embargo, saying the Sudanese Government and people support Iraq and its wise leadership.

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN2807194394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Iraq and Sudan this evening signed a joint protocol for trade and economic cooperation. The protocol was signed for Iraq by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and for Sudan by Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa.

The protocol stipulates that both fraternal countries seek to develop and enhance trade in terms of volume and products and to increase economic, scientific, and technical cooperation to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and countries.

The Sudanese delegation, led by Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa arrived in the country the day before yesterday on a visit lasting several days.

Al-Sahhaf, Ma'ruf Receive Pakistani Delegation

JN2807143394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met here today with a

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Pakistani delegation led by Mahmud Harun [name as transliterated], governor of Sind Province. Al-Sahhaf praised the position of the Pakistani government and people toward Iraq. He stressed the need to restore relations between Iraq and Pakistan to their previous level of progress and prosperity.

Mahmud Harun and members of his delegation expressed their shared desire to bolster bilateral ties, stressing that Pakistan supports Iraq. They expressed their determination to continue efforts to end the blockade, which has lost every pretext and has become unjustifiable. The delegation members stressed they will continue efforts to organize additional air flights to Iraq.

The delegation comprises the prime minister of Sind Province, the Pakistani housing minister, the defense ministry under secretary and chairman of Pakistani Airways, and a number of Pakistani officials.

In a related development, Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf has received Mahmud Harun and his delegation. The vice president conveyed greetings from President Saddam Husayn to the Pakistani delegation and wished them a good stay in Iraq. He praised the special ties between the peoples of Iraq and Pakistan. He said he hopes Pakistani Muslims will be able to visit the holy shrines in Iraq under better conditions.

Oil Minister, Indonesian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

JN2807141794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad met today with 'Alim Shah Ratu Biruira Nivara [name as received], Indonesian President General Suharto's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries in the oil industry fields and the scope of its promotion.

Turkey's Inonu on Efforts To Reopen Oil Pipeline

JN2807075894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman: "Turkish Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee Chairman: Turkey Exerts Great Efforts To Reopen Iraqi Pipeline"]

[Text] Erdal Inonu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Turkish Assembly, has said that the future and destiny of Iraq must be decided by the Iraqi people without any foreign interference.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH, Inonu said: We want to see Iraq like it was before, safeguarding its territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence, and living in peace in the region. He added: Turkey is striving and exerting great efforts to reopen the Iraqi pipeline. This action, which can be taken within the framework of the UN resolutions, will constitute the first important step toward lifting the economic embargo on Iraq. There are also other states which are striving for this end, because the effects of the blockade on Iraq have extended beyond the Iraqi borders, and are affecting other states, including Turkey.

Regarding the al-Khabur border crossing, Inonu said: This crossing is open, although the trucks passing through it have not yet reached the pre-war level. This gateway is considered the main passageway for Turkish trade with Iraq and the Arab countries South of Iraq.

Paper Comments on Clinton's Iraq 'Allegations'

JN2707134194 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 27, INA—Organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party AL-THAWRAH daily today condemned the U.S. continued hostile stand against Iraq for refusing to be entrapped in the U.S. labyrinth.

The daily affirmed in a news analysis today that Iraq by this very attitude had exposed what was termed as international legitimacy which because of the U.S. domination is now walking with a crutch.

It has made it clear that Iraq has from the beginning disclosed reality of the U.N. Security Council when it introduced to the world that the Security Council has changed into an office affiliate of the U.S. State Department.

The newspaper article emphasised that the United States was playing a political and economic game aimed at minimizing Iraq's oil role at the OPEC and consequently preventing Iraq from exporting its oil so that the oil sheikhdoms would benefit from that in order to pay their due bills to the U.S. companies.

It has further said that United States by this stance towards Iraq is translating its foreign policy meant for containing the countries refusing its commandments and dominance.

Refuting the U.S. President Clinton's allegations concerning Iraq "constituting a continued threat to the U.S. national security and vital interests", the daily said the region would not see stability and security without Iraq because it is a strategically influencial country and keen on the Arab nation's interests against colonialistic and reactionary ambitions.

U.S. Role in Washington Declaration Criticized

JN2807190394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Versailles, Yalta, And Potsdam Yesterday; Camp David Today"]

[Text] Yesterday, as he was patronizing the declaration on the "end of the state of belligerency" between Jordan

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and the evil Zionist entity in Palestine, Bill Clinton, the most undecided U.S. President, said: "We are starting a new era of peace at the end of this century." He deliberately ignored three placenames that won fame during the first half of this century: Versailles, Yalta, and Potsdam. These three names influenced events in a tragic way that exemplified the threat of the conflict between geography and politics on the one hand and history on the other.

It is very clear that the U.S. presidents, experts, and official politicians lack any historic sense, which states that history and not politics or geography ultimately influences the course of major events, regardless of the resolutions and documents of politics that are based on artificial geographic boundaries, supported only by the logic of the short-lived force.

Certainly, the undecided U.S. president knows that the Versailles Treaty, which severed parts of the German nation by force against the will of the German people after World War I, provided the spark that ignited World War II because the German people were convinced that they were divided, forced to relinquish parts of their territory by force, and pushed to accept borders that conflict with history.

Also, the undecided U.S. President certainly knows that the unity of the two parts of Germany and the collapse of the communist regimes in East Europe in 1989 and 1990 ended the spirit of Yalta, according to which the world was divided between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II. They also ended the Potsdam Treaty that divided Germany into two parts, East and West Germany.

The world superpowers, particularly the United States, stuck for long decades to the Versailles, Yalta, and Potsdam treaties. The will of the people, however, was stronger. They, tore apart the borders which were imposed by force and destroyed the treaties which aimed to nullify history and the will of peoples.

The undecided Clinton is living on the edges and fringes of history. He, therefore, was bound to, foolishly, make the same mistakes committed by his predecessors.

The biggest mistake made by the United States in this century is that its administrations utilizes transitory conditions, in which the balance of powers tilts to the benefit of the enemies of the Arab nation, to dictate borders and treaties that strongly conflict with history and the Arabs' basic interests. Does it expect the continuity of treaties that were imposed by force? If the United States thinks the answer is yes, then let us remind it of Versailles, Yalta, Potsdam, and the most important lessons they produced; that is, any peace treaty or borders not accepted by the people freely, without any pressure, will certainly be annulled. The Arab people are currently ignored and repressed.

One final question: Does the undecided Clinton forget that his primary official slogan—spreading democracy and human rights—completely contradicts the imposition of peace treaties by force? Yes, he forgets this because he is not the product of the memory of history, but the gangs of usurpation that established the United States, the Zionist entity, and South Africa.

Nations Urged To 'Carefully Ponder' Peace Call

JN2807155394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi: "The Sincere Call and the Required Stand"]

[Text] When leader Saddam Husayn affirmed in his historic speech on the 26th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution his offer of peace and security to whoever needs it, including those rulers who have harmed Iraq, and said that Iraq is still ready to cooperate positively with whoever wants to save his soul from its diseases, the leader meant to say that Iraq is ready to forgo and bandage its own wounds and hold a dialogue with others for the sake of the higher and more comprehensive interests of his people, nation, and the peoples of the region.

Iraq is not accustomed, as other regimes, to releasing propaganda trial balloons on major, principled issues. It has always been keen to build strong Arab relations, free of foreign domination. Therefore, when Iraq addressed a call to the rulers who have harmed it and its people and allied themselves with the imperialist states in order to recolonize the region militarily, plant it with fleets and bases, and hitch it up to humiliating agreements, it wanted to open a door of hope for everyone, especially those who have experienced U.S. policies during the past aggression period and saw how the United States does not care about ethics, values, and principles in international relations. All it cares about is the smell of oil, chasing wells and figuring how to extract, transport, market it, and guarantee its protection.

The sincere Iraqi call comes after Iraq succeeded in overcoming the chapters of military aggression and after splendid steadfastness in the face of the economic embargo and the important development in the positions of the world nations toward its just causes. Therefore, the call stems from a position of strength. No one in the region or the world, no matter how arrogant, can ignore Iraq and its role in its environment if he wants security and stability for himself and his interests, now or in the future.

Therefore, the regimes targeted by the Iraqi call are asked to carefully ponder their hostile policies against Iraq and what they have reaped, and to avoid the traditional hurried reactions that only harm them.

What is required is rational thinking and an accurate assessment of what has taken place and its reasons, and what might take place if the hostile stands against Iraq continue, as well as the outcome of positive cooperation with the Iraqi call and freedom from the foreigner

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complex. The regimes targeted by the Iraqi call understand more than anyone how the foreigner has blackmailed and treated them, and what is still left in their treasuries!

'Weak at Heart' Evading Price Guidelines

JN2807150994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by Yunus Hasan al-Samarra'i: "What Is up the Retailers' Sleeves?"]

[Text] Those devouring the flesh of their fellow countrymen are using every twisted way to obstruct the economic remedies our leadership recently launched. These immoral retailers understand the directives the other way round. They have resorted to increasing the price of eggs, meat, car tires, and other items. For example, a week ago the price of a pair of size 14 car tires was 42,000 dinars. This price has now more than doubled. Some state organizations have also increased the prices of their products, such as milk and fuel, by different rates, while doubling charges for water and sewage. As for the prices of eggs, they have doubled. The price of one tray of eggs now exceeds 600 dinars, after it had been stable at 375 dinars for a long time. The same can be said about the prices of different types of meat.

The sons of our people explain this state of affairs as an attempt to prevent implementation of the measures taken by our leadership, especially following the issuance of Revolution Command Council Decrees 54, 70, and 74 stipulating that party organizations assume responsibility to monitor prices and detain violators. The sale of vegetables has moved to houses, where tomatoes are stored and then produced after a few days at stores to be sold rotten to the citizens.

Some of the weak at heart also hoard rationed food items in their homes. They were seized by party committees. Measures were taken against the violators, according to the decrees of the esteemed Revolution Command Council.

Merchants have increased the prices of car tires to foil plans for collective transportation and to force taxi drivers to increase transportation charges, thus hurting the citizens.

Those who are devoutly loyal to leader President Saddam Husayn should confront these attempts, which aim to prevent implementation of the measures ordered by his excellency for the benefit of the people.

Newsprint Shortage Seen Forcing Suspensions

JN2807163394 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 12

[Unsigned "Whisper" column]

[Excerpt] At a meeting called to discuss why the Culture and Information Ministry has not abided by what its chief official said four months ago—that there is enough newsprint to last until the end of 1995—the minister of culture and information asked the Council of Ministers to study a report saying newsprint is now running out and that newspapers will stop publication in less than two months. He tried to justify this by implicitly blaming BABIL. He forgot, or pretended to forget, that confusion, miscalculations, and "generosity" in giving newsprint to other publications is to blame, not BABIL. [passage omitted]

Unified Congress' Shortcomings Criticized

MM2007105194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p 17

[Article by Talib Shabib, "former Iraqi foreign minister and member of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress:" "The Iraqi Crisis and the Quest for a Different Solution"]

[Text] The bloody fighting among Kurdish parties in north Iraq, which is still persisting and is likely to erupt again, has pained all Iraqis and depressed kinfolk and friends.

The causes of the infighting are known to all. The Kurdish political parties perceived the decision to turn Iraqi territory north of the 36th parallel into a safe haven as a license to do everything that in the past was a dream and that would, through quick action and imposition of a fait accompli, become an accepted reality. The truth is that this was never the case.

The wish of those who made the safe haven decision was, first and foremost, to protect the Kurds from the Saddamite massacre. Turkey's agreement to provide this protection from the Incirlik base was conditional on blocking any military move from the safe haven or any friction with the Saddamite Army surrounding it. Because Kurdistan's mountains were not meant to, nor can they, become the Sierra Maestra mountains to liberate Baghdad like Fidel Castro's forces liberated Havana.

After the failure of its negotiations with Saddam, over which no Iraqi party or neighbor was consulted, the Kurdistan Front hastened to hold parliamentary elections dictated by strong nationalism, instead of a transitional phase during which to examine conditions carefully, thoroughly, and slowly. Perhaps this is understandable in light of the fact that Iraqi Kurdistan has over the last decades been engaged in wars or subjected to oppression.

The condition that 7 percent of the votes must be won to enter parliament was a harsh condition which denied important political categories the opportunity to enter parliament and participate in the democratic process. Maybe the German option, which says 5 percent, would have been better for Kurdistan's conditions. And immediately after the end of the elections the results began to be suspected and contested until the two major parties,

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the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, agreed on the amazing and strange equal-shares formula, which is nothing but a truce formula accompanied by paralysis, suspicion, and anticipation.

I last visited Kurdistan at the beginning of April and left it on the 16th as a result of what I heard and saw. Despite the advice and good offices offered by Arab and foreign parties, I had a strong feeling that an imminent explosion was likely.

The democratic experiment in Kurdistan belongs to all Iraqis, and its success—even if it is limited—is a powerful reply to the dictatorial central proposal and the logic that force alone is the guarantee for security and stability. This is why the catastrophe represented by the bloody incidents that have taken place transcends the present, and its worrying effects could extend into the future.

I have found out that the region's government is in most cases either absent or paralyzed, and the rivalry is at its height between the two leading parties. And the two leaders, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, were behaving as though they were two different presidents in all spheres and in terms of statements and contacts. And the conditions experienced by all the Kurdish people were tragic as a result of the economic suffocation and the lack of real political participation. Add to this the roles played by some neighboring states, which can be said to lack good intentions. That is with the exception of Syria, which the Kurds began to frequent after a deliberate and long exclusion.

The aforesaid is a brief summary of the gloomy picture. But what is the solution? Frankly I have not got a magic solution. However, I believe that holding new elections under effective control and supervision, while considering the 5 percent an acceptable proportion, is a suitable solution, whatever the outcome: A coalition government or a majority government and a democratic opposition, provided that this is accompanied by a real unification of the armed forces and the complete abolition of the militia, in addition to considering competence and fairness, not partisan affiliation, as the basis when forming the administration's organs in the region.

Amid this crisis the Unified Iraqi National Congress—and I mention in particular Major General Hasan al-Naqib—tried to play the good role, and it succeeded to some extent, because it, unlike others, did not side with any party or try to win over a Kurdish side to bolster its standing at the Arab level.

As for the Iraqi National Congress, it has another story. The holding of its founding meeting in October 1992 in Salah al-Din, in other words on Iraqi soil, reflected a great national meaning, and many hopes were pinned on it. And although the Presidential Council formation was accused of perpetuating racism or sectarianism, this accusation is unfair, because the Kurdish tendency, the Islamic tendency, and the Arabism tendency cannot be neglected. And if there are more than three tendencies, we would have reached a loose structure unable to meet and work or that might not even come to being because of the dispute over the ratios or the disagreement over the figures.

As for the Executive Council, it is a different matter. The congress approved a strange constitution, leaving the Presidential Council to name the members so that they would be voted on at once. In short, there was no nomination or election, but, rather, a referendum on something that had been prepared beforehand and imposed on the Presidential Council. This is in addition to the red lines [khutut hamra'] and names imposed from abroad. All this was accompanied by declaring hostility toward Syria as well as false promises, tricks behind the scenes, and deceptive actions which were revealed in a statement issued by the Supreme Islamic Assembly. These were followed by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Duri's quick resignation, the al-Da'wah Party's pullout, and finally the resignation of 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, secretary of the Executive Council.

The least that could be said about the quality of the Executive Council is that many of its members are not known, be it in name, struggle, or history, and if you were to ask any Iraqi at home or abroad to name half of them, he would not be able to do so. Despite the fact that I am a member of the Executive Council, I too would not be able to do so. As for the Executive Council's work, it has been characterized by individualism. And the council is run by a chairman acting like a director of a company rather than a major political alliance.

The brother Kurdish leaders' wish was—and I do not know whether it is still, or whether it is possible to achieve—that the congress headquarters should be in Salah al-Din. This wish was responded to, and a large number of citizens were appointed, strangely on the basis of the fifty-fifty principle.

Kurdish motives are good, not bad. To some Arab figures, the presence of the headquarters there denies the accusation of secession. [sentence as published] It also provides a great opportunity to influence what the congress agencies decide. And it bolsters the unity of the joint Arab-Kurdish struggle. But Kurdish leaders are shouldering huge, complicated, and serious tasks in their daily handling of the region's affairs. These tasks allow them only a few hours to attend meetings every three or four months. The quorum is rarely present, as their interests—as a result of the bitter reality—include Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, the border with Turkey, Iran, and the problems of the Turkish [as published] Workers' Party, instead of Baghdad and the problems of the Ba'th Party and Saddam, let alone his threats and attempts.

As regards the Iraqi Arabs, some of them have tried, willingly, to reside and work in the north but even the most patient of them only lasted one month or less. There was no work for them, so they went back.

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The residence difficulties, being away from relatives, and the difficult living conditions do not allow tangible and effective Arab presence. Except for the chairman of the Executive Council and its Kurdish members, everyone else lives and works in the diaspora, including political work and work for a living to support the family.

The presence of offices for the opposition in Kurdistan is fundamental. But their tasks should be clear and defined. In the best cases, these offices are places for infiltration distribution of printed material, and collection of information and cannot in their present form become centers for Arab mobilization or any informational, political, or diplomatic action.

One of the possible solutions is for the congress' political agencies to have permanent representatives to be named by their own agencies in order to participate in collective leadership of the congress, instead of monopolization and domination. And to allow any member selected personally to participate fully and to enjoy all rights of the Executive Council membership wherever he is. And the congress formula should be developed into a more comprehensive Iraqi and national formula.

It is noted that there is a vast distance between the congress leadership and the huge Iraqi masses abroad, who, as a result of the establishment of the congress, have been neglected and excluded from the congress' opposition action. A quick look at the Iraqi Arabs abroad is enough to find out that most of them (that is, over 1.5 million) are distributed among Iran, Syria, Jordan, and the major Western capitals. London has been the most active capital in terms of opposition action. It is also the richest in terms of Iraqi politicians, writers, thinkers, and professionals. In fact the Vienna conference idea and the preparation for the Salah al-Din [conference] emanated from it. Every single Iraqi organization is represented in London. As for the informational aspect and the abundance of its means—which reach those inside the country in the form of broadcasts, newspapers, and personalities—it is known to everyone. The most important Arab newspapers are published in London. And nearly all their issues carry an article by an Iraqi writer or a report on what is happening in Iraq. And Arab political figures and representatives of the various movements sympathizing with and supporting us are always available in London or other European capitals.

I certainly feel that the congress has exiled itself to Salah-al-Din and is now completely isolated from the vast Iraqi masses in the diaspora which should be the moving, supporting, and heard echo of our people inside. Toppling Saddam is an arduous task that requires mobilizing the masses, especially among Ba'th Party ranks and the Armed Forces inside the country. How could that be achieved with the congress now isolated from the Iraqi masses abroad?

The congress should have had local leaderships in every country where Iraqis live. It should have also supported and helped them in terms of organization and political activities in order to become influential and win the support of the peoples and governments of the countries where they live. These leaderships should set up professional, student, and cultural organizations and provide them with every possible moral and material support. Instead of sending delegations to meet foreign ministry officials in the foreign states, the most important and proper thing is to address the Iraqi masses and to include them in political action—which is useful at this stage and to democratic Iraq in the future. And also to address Arab political organizations, instead of governments only. More accurately, if the congress is the Iraqi opposition, it should turn from a bureaucratic company into a living and influential mass movement.

I was invited late last month as a commentator to a meeting of a very important U.S. organization that is concerned with and influences U.S. foreign policy. The topic was "The Iraqi Situation." There was a unanimous view that the international boycott of Saddam is eroding. Turkey's and Moscow's positions are known, and the situation is tipping in Saddam's favor, as parliamentary and official delegations from France, Italy, and Germany have visited Iraq. And the positions of Spain and Brazil—and other states—at the Security Council have become hesitant.

Among the non-Arab states, the United States and Britain are the only two states that are firm in their enmity toward Saddam. However, the position of these two states is open to pressure and exhaustion. And I would not be exaggerating if I said that their feeling toward the [Iraqi] opposition is one of disgust. All political circles say that the end of the year will be crucial for the opposition's future: Either the collapse is going to be redressed in a decisive and effective manner or our affairs are going to be lost or forgotten.

I believe it is necessary to hold an urgent meeting—provided the number and quality of the inviters and the invitees, including those who are from outside the congress, are specified—in order to discuss what is closer to a catastrophe than to a crisis, and to discuss the situation and achieve the desired solution.

But allowing the situation to remain as it stands, appointing paralyzed and incompetent agencies, and limiting work and decisions to an individualistic, hasty, and irresponsible framework—this is something that is no longer permitted by Iraqi national duty and conscience.

Criticism Rebuffed

MM2007121594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 17

[Article by Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress: "Commenting on Talib Shabib: Iraqi Crisis Expressions, and...Indulgence in the Mirage"]

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[Text] I have read Mr. Talib Shabib's article on the "Ideas" page of the 18 June 1994 edition of the newspaper AL-HAYAH under the title "The Iraqi Crisis and the Quest for a Different Solution." I do not usually answer articles or enter into a discussion of the ideas and views therein because that, in my view, would open the way to discussions we can do without and some people might see them as just reactions which should not be taken seriously. However, my scrutiny of the article dictated the opposite because it pressed for an answer in the interest of the truth without which many facts would be lost or buried under the dust of misguidance or would be distorted through forgery and falsification.

Having an opposite opinion is everyone's common and legitimate right and is something which enriches ideas, increases political effectiveness, manifests true faith in the freedom of expression and thought, and confirms the authenticity of the claims of democracy and its sound, fertile, and vital course. Without different views democracy becomes nothing more than a cover for killing or confiscating the opposite views, or some kind of ideological and political terrorism wrapped in democracy and democratic verbal slogans. That, however, does not, under any pretext, mean that erroneous views should be allowed to run free without any criticism or aim because that would confuse and disturb political work and would drive the masses into a state of ideological and political confusion and would lead to despair and hopelessness.

Answering prevarications is part of democratic practice and it consolidates democratic values on a firm basis of consciousness and responsibility, otherwise the state of political and ideological loss becomes an evidence of anarchy and confusion, not a sign of freedom and democracy.

Shabib's article sought to use the incidents of the infighting in Iraqi Kurdistan as an entrance to the gaps in the work of the opposition in general and the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] in particular.

The way these incidents were addressed was astonishing. He says: "The causes of the infighting are known to all. The Kurdish political parties perceived the decision to make the Iraqi territory north of the 36th parallel a safe haven as a license to do everything that in the past was a dream and that would, through quick action and imposition of a fait accompli, become an accepted reality. The truth is that this was never the case." Apart from being a simplification that bears no resemblance to what happened, this analysis of the painful incidents in Kurdistan shows a rejoicing at the misfortune of the Kurdish movement. That is not the appropriate way of assessing the regrettable incident that occurred in the Kurdish arena because what is needed is an in-depth scrutiny that does not confine itself to what appears on the surface, a genuine and pure scrutiny remote from any calculation that does not rise to the level of the event and the responsibility, lacks justice and fairness, a scrutiny that does not include rejoicing at the misfortune of others and that does not ignore or keep out the objective truth when analyzing the bitter incidents of Kurdistan, namely that the international and regional situations were the factors which marginalized the role of the regional government in Iraqi Kurdistan and made it possible to bypass it and deal with the Kurdistan parties as an alternative to the regional government. Ignoring and forgetting that fact would mean inefficient assessment because it would ignore the basis and the roots. Furthermore, the UINC's active moves to ease the Kurdish crisis have produced the positive result that all the reservations of some Kurdish parties have been overcome reflecting their understanding of the necessity and importance of the UINC and their increased support for its role and efforts.

That activity confirmed the UINC's creative and innovative capacity and its ability to bring out the latent capabilities and use them, in a conscious and organized manner, in resolving the crisis. That was reflected in the deployment of the UINC forces between the parties in Kurdistan, shouldering a national duty with complete impartiality and neutrality, turning the UINC into a peace dove genuinely carrying the olive branch and into a model example of a political movement that understands the meaning of Arab-Kurdish fraternity. That is why the aforementioned entry was not appropriate and it was not the right way of viewing the UINC's problem. In fact, it would be no exaggeration to say that this entry led to a dead end, turned the truth upside down, using the method of unfair accusation and lack of evidence.

That is why the charge became just a vindictive complaint based only on false testimony and untrue fabricated claims in an atmosphere of noise and upstaging that exposes the bankruptcy of its protagonists and their resentment of the UINC's recent brilliant success on the level of its relations with the people and its persistent efforts to bring down the tyrant Saddam and his black regime. The prevarications did not stop at the point of confusion and distortion but went beyond that to flagrantly try to divide the ranks and drive a wedge in the UINC's organizational structure and its anti-dictatorship political line.

We see nothing in that unrealistic and unfair analysis other than political envy of the UINC's brilliant successes. We see it as an offense reflecting a spirit of selfishness at a time when the opposition's work is in dire need of discarding envy and selfishness and putting the national interest above all other considerations. The national struggle against dictatorship is entering a decisive and serious phase which requires altruism and sacrifice with the people's salvation in mind, away from personal calculations and personal interests and away from empty and senseless political rhetoric that has no value in reality and is not heard by the people.

What is astonishing is that the views in the article "The Iraqi Crisis and the Quest for a Different Solution" come from a member of the UINC's Executive Council who enjoys all the rights of contribution to the formulation of

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the UINC's strategic line and its policymaking and is fully free to express his views within the UINC's organizational structure and in all its institutions, conferences, and meetings.

What is also astonishing is that these views were not disclosed before and were only unveiled after the UINC's success in escalating the anti-dictatorship action in the depth of the national territory that is under the yoke of that dictatorship, and its success, acknowledged by all parties to the Kurdish crisis, in calming and resolving that crisis with minimum losses and sacrifices, a matter which earned it the appreciation of our Iraqi people, including Arabs, Kurds, and all minorities, and which left a favorable large-scale impression in the areas under repression and tyranny and raised the hopes of our people aspiring to salvation and freedom. That success also had positive effects at the level of the sympathy of friends in the world because they saw it as evidence of the soundness of the UINC's work and a clear sign of its political effectiveness and ability. The quest for a different solution to the Iraqi crisis should not be done by defamation and antagonism nor by spreading accusations and falsehoods. It is a question of sincere scrutiny of the gaps with the higher interest and responsibility in mind, and that should first be in the organizational framework of the UINC within which all negative aspects and obstacles are discussed and solutions found for all the loopholes that could cause its base to crack and its structure to split. Any attempt to violate the customary organizational rules would not only be a violation of organizational mores and tradition but would also be tantamount to a destructive hammer seeking to destroy the organizational entity and turn it into ruin and debris.

Democracy has limits and rules. It does not mean contravention of what is customary nor violation of the agreed rules or accepted agreement, because it would then turn into anarchy with all the ensuing destructive effects on all that has been achieved and would put barriers and obstacles on the way to the future and in the way of the aspiration to the salvation of the people.

The prevarications of that article do not stop there. They go further, saying that "the least that could be said about the quality of the Executive Council is that many of its members are not known, be it in name, struggle, or history, and if you were to ask any Iraqi at home or abroad to name half of them, he would not be able to do so. Despite the fact that I am a member of the Executive Council, I too would not be able to do so."

A scrutiny of that diagnosis and an analysis of the Executive Council and its function would elucidate a number of points. It was a belated judgement, if that is the right word, or a belated conclusion. The problem with backward judgements and late conclusions is that their motives, before being too late, are tendentious and reflect latent intentions that explode as the narrow considerations and the personal calculations reach a dangerous level of selfishness. The Executive Council members were not imposed in their current positions nor were they chosen now, this moment. They were selected a long time ago on the basis of the views of the majority of the UINC's General Assembly.

That kind of talk is nothing but a defamation and a belittling of the value and position of these gentlemen. It is an unacceptable insult and is not something for open publication at all. The only legitimate space for it is within the UINC's organizational structure with the rights and the rules it embodies.

Political work is different from administrative work. The first is governed by the values of principles and sacrifice and its real arena covers the areas of confrontation with the enemies of the people. The other is governed by office standards and by the mechanism of job performance. That is why the struggle responsibility dictates that events should be approached on the basis of sound realistic political logic, which necessitates presence on the location of events and interaction with it. Failing to do that only means staying away from the arena of national struggle.

The confrontation with the tyrant Saddam Husayn, the deviations he introduced, and the erroneous political ideologies he spread, require a new method of action and struggle, which is what the UINC has been aware of and anxious to do, making sure that the requirements for that are fulfilled, especially establishing a base for its presence in the national arena, making Iraqi territory its headquarters and the springboard of its struggle.

A look at the UINC activities in this connection would show astounding successes. It has a publication in Iraq distributed in Baghdad and in all main Iraqi towns. It supervises a radio station and a television station which produce programs exposing the fascist regime and its crimes. It prepares and distributes leaflets deep inside the national territory that is under the yoke of the tyrant, driving the regime mad and making it express its resentment and annoyance through anti-UINC postures in its media and in the activities of its security organs against the UINC members and ranks. The regime's threats and the risks resulting from that, which make resistance against it a legitimate matter worthy of the highest sacrifice, boosts the morale of the people working inside and gives them incentive to fight the dictatorship to the point of making that, not the preoccupations of life in the diaspora, their all-consuming concern.

The presence in the national arena allows one to feel the people's political, economic, social, and psychological suffering, because one sees them with his own eyes and touches them with his own hands, and reacts to them and merges with them, making his concern a part of the great national concern and his pain a part of the people's pain and suffering. Furthermore, such presence would link one's fate to the fate of the people and the danger threatening every Iraqi.

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The importance and advantages of work inside Iraq are not confined to just that, with one being in the battlefield in practical terms. It also unearths the struggle capabilities of the Iraqis rendered homeless by the tyrant and gives rise to new leadership born of the tumult of events and therefore able to cope with them and have the qualities necessitated by the battle for salvation from fascism, after work had relied on the exterior and the figures who would rather settle there away from the interior and its duties and sacrifices.

The UINC activity inside [Iraq] has contributed to an increase in the world's understanding of the justice and legitimacy of its struggle against despotism, and that has resulted in more sympathy and respect for the UINC because the world can now see a real national political movement on Iraqi territory calling for democratic change, having a physical presence within the national entity with representatives undertaking numerous tasks, visiting the Security Council, and exchanging messages with representatives of other states and world movements. That would not have been possible had reliance been on the activities abroad, characterized by altercations.

The strangest thing in that article, unprecedented in the history of political movements, is where it says: "As regards the Iraqi Arabs, some of them have tried, willingly, to reside and work in the north but even the most patient of them only lasted one month or less. There was no work for them, so they went back. The residence difficulties, being away from relatives, and the difficult living conditions do not allow tangible and effective Arab presence. Except for the chairman of the Executive Council and its Kurdish members, everyone else lives and works in the diaspora, including political work and work for a living to support the family."

That kind of talk exposes a bitter and dismal reality denoting a lack of a sense of responsibility and sacrifice. The diaspora, wherever that may be, is not the real ground for resisting tyranny. The political movements which make the outside world the springboard for their struggle are bound to fail. They also do not command the respect of their people. No movement would make the external field its main arena for resisting severe tyranny and toppling the unjust regime and ridding the people of it. Such movements become marginal, turned by comfort and complacency into mere shops in political markets, or faint political decorations with no reflection inside Iraq or in the Arab homeland. Unfortunately, Saddam Husayn's regime cannot be brought down by political shops nor is it bothered by political decor. The downfall of that regime comes through incessant and relentless national action, something which does not exist outside the national arena. If certain considerations had dictated the initiation of such action abroad, the liberation of some parts of Iraq means that such action should be inside and should not come from abroad. If some calculations necessitate some form of such presence then that should be to serve and be a catalyst to the action inside, and it should not under any pretext or consideration become the main action.

The excuse that the aim of the Iraqi opposition's community (living and working abroad) is to maintain a presence outside the arena is an excuse that conceals an escape from the real arena of struggle and from the reality of effective confrontation with the despot's regime and the risks and sacrifices that ensues, an escape to safety and reassurance.

The battle against the fascist regime in Iraq leaves only one option, namely presence in the arena and willingness to fulfill all requirements for that. Victory in that battle cannot be achieved with words. In circumstances of fateful struggle, words, with absence from the battlefield, merely become just nice prose with resounding and sensational phrases. Experience confirms that victory is made with struggle, action, and sacrifice and requires the word to be transformed into an outcry that would frighten the tyrants. There can be no such outcry if the words are just shouting by people outside the arena and away from anything that would turn them into effective, positive, and constructive work inside the homeland.

Further to what the author of that article says about the expatriate community being a center for polarizing opposition action, he says: "The UINC has exiled itself to Salah-al-Din and is now completely isolated from the vast Iraqi masses in the diaspora which should be the moving, supporting, and heard echo of our people inside. How could that be achieved with the UINC now isolated from the Iraqi masses abroad?"

The bitter question which that strange claim raises is this: Is there anything more fact-distorting than such a claim, and would any sane person accept it?

As is known, the authenticity and depth of any political movement are measured by its links with its people and masses. An absence of that factor means not only struggle failure and ideological failure but also political failure that would make it difficult or even impossible to accomplish the national missions. We had thought that Talib Shabib, with his experience in politics and underground work, would be more appreciative of the UINC's link with the people and more honest in manifesting that awareness by confirming that a political movement without the masses is like fish without water.

His article leaves a different impression. We do not wish to disclose more of the reasons which make the different solution the author is seeking to resolve the crisis of the work of the Iraq opposition some kind of fantasy which is not only a kind of indulgence in a mirage but even more than that. The real crisis which he, the expert on the rules of political and organizational work, ignores is mainly rooted in the absence [from the arena] of those who raise sensational slogans about the national arena but stay away from the national depth and work on Iraqi territory.

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The required mobilization and formation of an organizational framework that would unleash national and effective struggle depend on action that would transform the political program into a struggle program that would meet the field requirements and confront the dictatorial regime in its stronghold in order to cause cracks in the body of the regime, break its power structure, and fragment the structure of its repressive party organs. That, above all, requires that such action should spring from within. Any pretext outside that fact is mere self-deception before being deception of others.

What we find difficult to understand is the charge that the UINC exiled itself by choosing homeland territory as its headquarters and field of action. How can presence on Iraqi territory be exile and presence abroad on foreign territory be presence in the homeland?

The real exile is the presence outside national territory. The diaspora may be a tributary of the national river which cannot exist outside Iraqi territory. Therefore, it would be strange and questionable for anyone to seek to distort the truth, play around it, or use pretexts outside its boundaries, because it would indicate either ignorance of the rules of national action and laws of political effectiveness, or an illusion that would only fool its own originator, or it would be a tendentious attempt to keep the main body outside its sphere of influence and to waste energies away from the dictatorial citadel, a stray arrow that would not hit the target. That, regrettably, would be a waste.

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Cabinet Endorses Washington Declaration

TA2807121794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The cabinet met in special session today to hear a report from Prime Minister Rabin on the Washington summit. The cabinet endorsed the Washington declaration unanimously, and is to submit it to the Knesset for approval. The Knesset will be recalled from its summer recess especially for the purpose. The cabinet also heard a report from Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am on the Buenos Aires bomb attack. Bar'am is just back from the Argentinian capital. The cabinet sent condolences to the families of the victims, and voiced support for Jewish communities throughout the diaspora. It called on all governments to take effective action to protect Israeli and Jewish residents. The cabinet said it would do all in its powers to catch those responsible.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Jack Katzenell] Ministers stressed time and again that the war on international terrorism is the responsibility of the entire international community. The government says it is stepping up its cooperation with foreign governments in this area and calls on them to take firm action.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres welcomed the statement by the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', that Syria is not happy about the terrorists' attacks and does not condone them. I asked Peres if he was surprised by al-Shar's declaration.

[Peres] Yes, I was pleasantly surprised.

[Katzenell] Argentina has requested the extradition of a Shiite fundamentalist leader in Lebanon, and Lebanon has apparently refused. What role is Israel going to play in the fight against these people.

[Peres] First of all, I hope that other countries will follow the example of Argentina because, undoubtedly, Iran is a center of terror, of lying, of cheating. It is simply a dangerous country with a dangerous policy.

[Katzenell] Ministers were cagey about what precisely Israel would do to combat the terrorists. They refused to be drawn on whether there would be covert operations, like those carried out by the Mosad against the PLO in the 1970's. But, Economic and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit, a professor of law, says such actions are legitimate for self defense:

[Shetrit] Israel would not talk publicly about concealed actions, which are common and legitimate actions, that a country is doing in order to protect its citizens. And therefore, I think that concealed actions could not be ruled out.

[Katzenell] Only Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, a retired general, was more specific. He said Israel already knows that the main source of the Islamic terrorism lies in Iranian-backed organizations, based in Lebanon.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Mainly the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and others, and Hizballah. I think that they should take their lesson from what happened two months ago.

[Katzenell] When you say what happened two months ago, you are referring to the Israeli air strike against the Hizballah training base?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Well exactly, I am referring to that.

[Katzenell] If the source of terror is as near as Lebanon, Ben-Eli'ezer said, Israel will not stand by idly. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning telephoned Egypt's President Husni Mubarak and briefed him on the Washington summit and the continuation of the peace talks. The Prime Minister's Office said Mubarak congratulated Rabin on the achievement of the Washington declaration with Jordan.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 28 July in a similar report by Shlomo Raz carries a recorded passage by Police Minister Moshe Shahal saying: "It would be wise and correct, I believe, for our foreign minister to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and brief him on the agreement."] ratify them.

Rabin Discusses Washington Talks, Peace Process

NC2807190994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi in Washington on 25 July; from the "World This Week" program—recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles; transcribed from the English]

[Text] [Fahmi, introductory remarks in Arabic] On the difference between his handshakes with King Husayn and Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin said:

[Rabin] All the basic difference is that I shook a hand of the King, a leader of an Arab country that has the customs, the norms of behavior of an independent state that was for a long time under Western influence, not in contradiction of being an Arab, Islamic country.

When I speak with 'Arafat I speak with the leader of a terror organization that in an indiscriminative way killed, attacked Israelis. And, therefore, there is in Israel an entirely basic attitude towards the agreement today. That there is....[pauses] It has the support of all the people. There is a national consensus about this agreement. While, when I signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington and the Cairo agreement about Gaza-Jericho first, the people are divided. There are different views.

[Fahmi] Mr. Prime Minister, you talked about the PLO and you said "terrorist organization." I thought this has

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changed now after you signed mutual recognition with the PLO. I mean, do you still regard the PLO as a terrorist organization?

[Rabin] No, after the declaration in the mutual recognition letters that Chairman 'Arafat sent to me and I returned, he is committed not to use violence and terror as the means to achieve political goals vis-a-vis Israel. But I cannot say that he is in control in Gaza of those who declare they will continue, like the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Which is not the case in Jordan. Jordan acts to prevent any terror acts against the Israelis through the lines between them and us.

[Fahmi] Part of the agreement that was signed today said that Israel would recognize the role of Jordan in a sort of a supervisory way on the Islamic sites in Jerusalem. Could you please just state what is your position on Jerusalem and what is the significance of this clause today?

[Rabin] When we negotiate the permanent status of Jerusalem, to which we are committed by the DOP [Declaration of Principles] with the Palestinians in about two years from now, then we will give high priority to the historic role of Jordan on the holy shrines. And allow me to explain in what context if falls.

I believe that in the permanent solution of the problem of Jerusalem we will have to distinguish Jerusalem as a living city. Seventy-four percent of its population are Jewish. It is united. It will remain united under Israel's sovereignty and our capital.

But as far as the fact that Jerusalem is holy to the Christians, to the Muslims, we have to make sure that there will be free access, free practice for all the religions, the other religions, to the holy shrines of them. The administration of the holy shrines must remain not by us, by whoever the Muslim world will decide and not as a political decision, but as a religious decision. And there is a priority for the Jordanians to do so because they have done so for many years.

[Fahmi] If you allow me to take an issue with what you are saying. You all the time say Jerusalem will be the last thing to be discussed. But here you say Jerusalem will be undivided under Israeli sovereignty, which whereby really deciding what's the final status of Jerusalem. What it means really is that you are saying it is, will be, the last issue to be discussed?

[Rabin] In the negotiations with the Palestinians, we left at least four issues—Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, borders—to be negotiated with us after certain developments in giving the Palestinians the right to rule their daily life by themselves, because we believe that it's better that we see how the self-rule arrangement for the Palestinians will work, while we keep the settlements, responsibility for external security, the overall security for the Israelis in the settlements. We are now experiencing Gaza-Jericho First, that was handed over to the Palestinians to rule. If we had brought these issues now to be solved, we would not have started anything with the Palestinians. We hope that once new realities will develop more confidence, it will be easier to tackle these problems. But we have our position, they've got their position. It's legitimate.

[Fahmi] What's going to happen on the Syrian track now? Apparently, you are still in the same situation where you don't trust President al-Asad. President al-Asad is still in the same situation; he does not trust you or the Israeli Government. Is it possible to agree on an arrangement whereby in the end of the tunnel, you will get full peace and he will get the full Golan?

[Rabin] I believe the problem with Syria led by President al- Asad is that all his policy of negotiations is based on his belief that the United States can deliver Israel on his terms. He doesn't negotiate with Israel. And let me say that without direct secret contacts, we would not have reached agreement with the PLO. Without direct secret contact, with the assistance of the United States, we would not have reached the Washington Declaration today. Al-Asad, President al-Asad, believes that he has to put the request to the United States and the United States has to deliver Israel. The United States is not delivering any country. The United States understands that peace cannot be imposed—Arabs on Jews, Jews on Arabs—and even the United States cannot impose peace. The United States tries to bridge the gap between the positions of the two sides that they will agree to put an end to war and establish relations of peace. Al-Asad has not reached the basic understanding that without having, in addition to whatever the United States does—and the United States does a lot to bring about peace in the region—he has to have direct talks, quiet talks with Israel, even with the presence of the United States' special representative.

[Fahmi] When the Israeli Constitution will determine what are the Israeli borders, because until now there is no definition of what is Israeli borders?

[Rabin] It is not a question of Constitution. It's a question of international agreement. And of course, in accordance to our laws, even without Constitution, the legislative body can decide about the annexation. All the governments of Israel refused to annex the West Bank or the Gaza Strip with the exception of the unification of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, there was a law that annexed the Golan Heights. But the same majority will decide to make compromises, territorial compromises, or meaningful territorial compromises vis-a-vis Syria.

Further Comments on Talks

TA2707172794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1516 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Statement followed by news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents at Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv upon his return from the United States—live]

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[Text] [Rabin] Good afternoon. I believe all of you watched the events in Washington, everything that was broadcast and stated.

Allow me to begin with a totally different issue. The State of Israel was, is, and I believe will continue to be unique. At one and the same time, one Israeli team was in Washington to formally and openly make a big and significant step toward peace with Jordan. Prior to our trip and during our stay in Washington, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] rescue team went to Argentina in the wake of a heinous and murderous terror attack against the local Jewish community because of its Jewishness and, unfortunately, uncovered some 60 bodies. A third team, an IDF field hospital, flew to Rwanda to help persecuted refugees. I do not think anything can exceed this combination: The effort to exhaust the chances of peace, worldwide Jewish responsibility, as manifest in the assistance following a heinous terror attack perpetrated against a Jewish community, and humanitarian action to help the unprecedented human tragedy taking place in Rwanda.

Now I would like to turn to what was achieved prior to and during the summit in Washington. It is no secret that we had been engaged in negotiations with the Jordanians since the Madrid conference. However, the following changes occurred during the current government's tenure: First, the decision to regard the PLO as the Palestinian representative. An entity with whom progress can be made to establish a Palestinian self-government authority as an interim arrangement based on the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. Although this was not a peace treaty, it was a significant step toward peace. The Declaration of Principles [DOP] was followed by the Gaza-Jericho First negotiations and the signing of the Cairo agreement. The handling of the Israeli- Palestinian problem under the terms of the Madrid conference continued in our region, but did not hinge on progress in the negotiations with other parties. I would like to emphasize that had it not been for this move we would not have been able to attain what we did with Jordan in Washington.

There were various stages in the process. Bilateral and trilateral negotiations were held in Washington. Later the negotiations were relocated to our region, initially to 'En 'Avrona. The third stage was the trilateral negotiations on the level of foreign ministers, conducted by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, Foreign Minister Peres, and by al-Majali, who serves as Jordan's prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister. These were followed by contacts with Jordan aimed at formulating what has come to be known as the Washington Declaration.

I have no doubt that had it not been for our willingness to enter bilateral discussions with the Jordanians in our region on all the components of peace—such as security, water, borders, the essence of peace, economic relations—it would have been impossible to resume this format of the negotiations. On the other hand, of course, I doubt that we would have attained the Washington Declaration had the United States not changed its approach and complied with some of Jordan's requests, particularly in the economic area.

At the time of the peace agreement with Egypt, the United States agreed to come forward economically so that the Egyptian people should feel that peace was not just a slogan but had an impact on their daily life. The DOP would have been of no relevance had it not been for the countries which announced their willingness to donate funds for the economic and social development of the Palestinians. The same applies to the Jordanians: Had it not been for the economic component, it is doubtful that we would have achieved what we did.

What did we achieve? We achieved the end of the state of belligerency. King Husayn himself went beyond what was written down and publicly announced the end of the state of war. Given the reality of the Middle East, I would wish for us to attain an end of the state of war with other Arab countries. In the meantime, however, we only have peace with Egypt and we have the Washington Declaration; we have attained the end of the state of belligerency or war with only two countries.

The Washington Declaration stipulates the foundations for building peace. It is not enough to end the state of war or belligerency, peace must also be built. The way to attain this goal, which must culminate in the signing of a peace treaty, is still ahead of us. I believe steps will yet be taken which will reflect, even if only in a limited manner, the change in the situation. This steps could include telephone ties, tourism, and other areas, as well as additional economic deliberations.

I would like to reiterate what I said in the past: The Madrid framework must be maintained, but talks with any Arab interlocutor must revert to direct negotiations. U.S. participation is always important, because I have no doubt that had it not been for the U.S. involvement, the Madrid Conference would not have come into being and we would have not reached the results attained so far with the Palestinians and with the Jordanians.

The four delegations traveling together to Washington for a short period of time were the legacy of the international conference, and such a conference has to this day never produced any Arab-Israeli agreement whatsoever. Our ability to uphold the goal and edifice of comprehensive and full peace built of bilateral bricks—Israel and the Palestinians, Israel and the Jordanians—will probably make Syria face a dilemma, because Lebanon will not dare make a step similar to the one taken by the Palestinians and the Jordanians without Syria.

I think this was an important occasion. To me, personally, it was also an emotional occasion, as I believe it was to many others. I chose to take with me 12 Israelis, not necessarily people holding political jobs but Israelis whose lives bear testimony to the pain and anguish of

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our enmity with Jordan. Some of them also embody the hope that in the wake of this agreement, our situation and theirs will change. I saw fit to introduce them in the course of my address to the joint session of the U.S. Congress because they are the people of Israel. Each one of them is special in his own way and expresses the uniqueness of the conflict with Jordan in the past and the hope for the future. I was very touched when all members of the House applauded them when I told the story of each one of them and they stood up in the balcony. I saw this as the true expression of the attitude of the representatives of the U.S. people to the Israelis, and not just to government officials. I saw this as an expression of the relations between our two nations and their appreciation of the Israeli people and its representatives, not just their formal ones. This was of utmost importance.

I believe that we will succeed in making progress with Jordan. I will not deny that there are still difficulties. I believe that what was agreed with the Americans with regard to economic aid to Jordan—perhaps even limited military aid—will be fulfilled, because there can be no peace if the sides do not achieve something for their peoples; if all they have to show for it is words and not an impact on their everyday life.

Personally speaking, I am the only prime minister who has to date been invited to address a joint session of both houses of the U.S. Congress. The first time was in 1976, on the bicentennial of the U.S. independence. This time, the leadership of both houses of the U.S. Congress set what they claimed is a precedent, when they invited two speakers—King Husayn and myself—to address them. They told me there had never been such an event in the past. I think that this event, along with the Washington Declaration, and what happened in the last two days there, gives great hope to the policy of this government and all its members, including myself in my capacity as prime minister, that we will be able to attain the goal we set for ourselves: to advance peace everywhere and to be prepared to take calculated risks for the sake of peace together with our greatest partner, the United States.

I would like to express my appreciation to U.S. President Clinton, to former U.S. Presidents, to current and former U.S. administrations, and certainly to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who have always showed their understanding and stood by Israel in times of trouble and in times of hope.

This is what I have to say. I, just like all my friends who travelled with me, feel that we made progress; that a step has been taken which is yet another landmark in the progress toward peace.

[Jerusalem Television correspondent Menashe Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, did you invite King Husayn to visit Jerusalem, and what Arab country would you prefer to be in charge of the Jerusalem mosques?

[Rabin] With regard to the first question: I do not think it would be wise for me to tell you whether I invited the king. As in the pre-Washington-encounter era, I prefer to address substance, significant issues. I will not say whether I did or did not extend an invitation as long as it is not on the agenda.

[Raz] Will the peace agreement with Jordan be signed in Jerusalem?

[Rabin] There is a lot of work to be done before a peace agreement is signed. It will not happen next week or next month. At the same time, I sincerely hope that what was discussed in the Washington talks will be indeed implemented.

By the way, I would like to tell you that the king was very moved by the stories I related about each Israeli I invited to accompany me on my trip to Washington, and at the banquet last night he told me: I would very much like to meet them. I explained that they had been unable to attend owing to various constraints, to the number of participants. I suggested that he invite them to Jordan, and he agreed at once. I will coordinate with the king the visit of the Israeli group, whose members have no official standing but who came to Washington with me as representatives of the Israeli people in connection with the Jordanian issue.

[Raz] Will you coordinate by telephone or at another meeting?

[Rabin] Believe me, these details do not matter. Coordinating this matter is not difficult at all, but I will not specify the way.

[Raz] There was another question that has not been answered: What Arab country would the State of Israel prefer to sponsor the Jerusalem mosques?

[Rabin] As stipulated in the DOP, the Jerusalem issue will be discussed two years after the Gaza-Jericho First agreement implementation, in the negotiations on the permanent solution. In all my talks, I left no room for doubt that the Israeli stand is unequivocal: United Jerusalem is and will remain under Israeli sovereignty; united Jerusalem is and will remain the capital of the State of Israel, and it definitely is the spiritual capital of the entire Jewish people.

As for responsibility for holy Muslim and Christian sites, I think all Israeli Governments have adhered to the commitment to uphold freedom of worship and free access to sites held holy by the two religions, the Christian and the Muslim. The administrative responsibility for the holy sites is even today held by the religious Christian and Muslim bodies.

I will tell you a secret: In a more intimate meeting in the king's quarters last night, a meeting between him and his wife, me and my wife, I gave him a photo album showing the regilding of what we call the al-'Umar Mosque—I am referring to the Dome of the Rock. It was a project undertaken by King Husayn, who allotted it $10 million. It was completed within two years. As you all know, the

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wages of the Waqf, the Supreme Muslim Council, have been paid by Jordan since the Six-Day War. The al-'Umar Mosque dome regilding was carried out by him. Therefore, when you read the Washington Declaration, you will see that it contains two components: One, we honor Jordan's current role in the upkeep of Jerusalem's holy places, because it is a fact. Second, with regard to the Islamic holy sites: When we reach the permanent solution negotiations, we will give high priority to the historical role played by Jordan. This issue does not have to be addressed at this time. Thus, having clarified Israel's stand beyond any doubt: a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, which is the eternal capital of the Jewish people and of the State of Israel, I attached great importance to the formulation of the Jerusalem issue in the Washington Declaration, in separating Jerusalem's political status from the religious problem of the Muslims and the Christians.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shmu'el Tal] Mr. Rabin, before you left for Washington there was talk that an end to the state of belligerency would probably be declared. King Husayn, however, exceeded the expectations by saying: We should now say—no more war. Can we expect the king to come up with more surprises, such as an initiative to bring al-Asad into the peace process? And another question, if I may: How will you react if 'Arafat attempts to join King Husayn on a visit to Jerusalem, when he comes?

[Rabin] With regard to the first question, I suggest we refrain from asking others to influence third parties. To my great regret, the Syrian leaders still believe they can ask America to deliver us. Yet this is not the American way. The American policy was reflected in President Clinton's remarks at the news conference, in his emphasizing that America is assisting the parties to attain an agreement. America does not assume the parties' role, and I think this American policy is vastly important. They will not come up with proposals; rather, they will try to bridge the two sides' stands, without attempting to pressure either us or the other side. This American approach stems from their awareness that these days, peace cannot be coerced, either by an outside party or by the sides themselves. Therefore, I am not asking any Arab leader to deliver anyone. We follow the concept of bilateral moves—us and the Palestinians, us and the Jordanians—in addition to the historic breakthrough achieved over 15 years ago when peace with Egypt was forged; and, it is also us and the Syrians, no one else. Because unless we resolve bilateral problems, we will not attain comprehensive and full peace with all the neighboring Arab countries and with the Palestinians.

[Tal] What about the other question, the possibility of 'Arafat's joining Husayn?

[Rabin] I am not going to speculate about visits to Jerusalem.

[Unidentified IDF Radio correspondent] When will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher make his next visit to the region?

[Rabin] No date has been set; August is quite possible, but no date has been set.

To Address Knesset on Jordan

TA2807163694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The Knesset will convene for a special session next Wednesday [3 August] to hear the prime minister's statement on the agreements with Jordan. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the agreements will be presented before the house, but it is not yet clear whether the Knesset will be asked to

U.S. Efforts in Peace Process Said Still Needed

TA2807183594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar in Washington: "Not for a Hill of Beans"]

[Text] As was expected, King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin lavished so much praise on the Americans that an important Israeli remarked that Clinton and his men are willing to sell their kingdom for a hill of beans. But does what they did "for king and country" this time justify the adorations the king and the prime minister gave them? The Washington Declaration, and the name is not accidental, again gives rise to questions regarding the contribution of the only global superpower to the peace process in the Middle East.

Has once again the caterer become the groom, as happened last September on the same south lawn? Then, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher scheduled trips for himself that took him to Egypt and Jordan, allowing the cameras to capture him in the middle of the frame, in between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

An initial glance at the big pictures in the U.S. press tempts one to add some notes on the issue of the current administration's photo-op policy. On the next day, when the headlines went back to rubbing salt in the Whitewater wounds, it could be stated that handshake B contributed 10 times more to Middle East appeasement than handshake A contributed, if at all, to the chances of appeasement between Clinton and his voters.

True, Clinton took advantage of a dinner or two to pay his respects to his major donors, and the Jews won yet another steam bath on the presidential lawn. Such are the rules of the U.S. democratic game. It may be assumed that Clinton and his aides read the papers and the polls. They must be quite aware of the fact that their glory will not come from handshakes between leaders of countries that most Americans cannot even place on a map.

If the tour by the Clinton-Rabin-Husayn trio had any impact at all on the national mood in the United States, very little was left of it by the weekend. Last year, the Middle East peace process was the U.S. foreign policy fig

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leaf. Yet, Clinton and Christopher have learned by now that it is not enough to cover the loins of North Korea, Bosnia, and Haiti.

Whatever the President's motivations may have been, the Rabin- Husayn meeting could not have taken place on any other lawn in the world. The United States does not need to do much really, it may even make mistakes. Even if the Middle East reaches critical times just when the United States undergoes a rough period itself—without it, Rabin and Husayn could go on playing hide and seek for another 20 years (the biological factor not withstanding).

Without the circle of cheering and service-providing Americans, the Oslo agreement would have been filed away in the Norwegian Government archives. The negotiations with Syria will not budge as long as Clinton does not present Hafiz al-Asad with a U.S.-made document.

At first, Dennis Ross and his associates did not take Shim'on Peres' Jordanian vision too seriously. They too, like Rabin, found it hard to believe that the 3 November agreements would lead to the Damascus bypass process. And indeed, the king changed his mind and the Americans did not encourage him to continue. They were saving the pressure and the temptation for the semifinals. Speaking to the microphones, Husayn made remarks about Jerusalem, normalization, and ending the state of war which went far beyond the written words. Before he landed in Washington, Husayn's lips were very tight. The change in rhetoric took place on U.S. soil.

In his White House speech, Rabin presented a profound discourse on the philosophical meaning of a handshake. He did not say that the handshake with 'Arafat yielded Israel the moral legitimization of the Arab world. The same symbolic gesture, made under the President's auspices, last week provided it with stately legitimacy—or royal legitimacy, if you wish.

Israel used to be the element which united the Arab world in opposition to its existence. Now, Jordan has recognized the fact that Egypt has become accustomed to by now: Israel is a legitimate partner and a priceless U.S. asset. The level of Arab-Israeli relations has moved up a notch. What reason do Tunisia and Morocco have now to adhere to the state of beiligerency with and economic boycott against Israel?

From now on, after Jordan followed in the PLO footsteps, Syria can no longer delay the negotiations under the pretext that it must stick to pan-Arab coordination. In the coming months it will be revealed whether the patience (hesitance?) the Americans have been demonstrating on the Syria track is beginning to pay off. It appears that Syrian television not only devoted 50 minutes to relaying the White House ceremony, it also extensively reported on the positive reaction by Israeli opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu to the understandings with Jordan.

Washington believes this was a message to the Syrian people to ally their fears that a right-wing government might renounce agreements signed by its predecessor. Yasir 'Arafat took in the Syrian frustration by trying, for one hour, to claim that al-Hammah has always belonged to Palestine.

The U.S. peace officials speak in euphoric terms about developments in the Jordanian and Syrian arenas. Considering the agenda of the American political echelons and the series of domestic troubles they have encountered, they earned their bread in the Washington events of last week and in the impact this will have on Israel's status in the region.

Rabin Adviser Confirms Summit With Mubarak

TA2907120394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are to meet on 31 July in Taba. Rabin's media adviser 'Oded Ben-'Ami confirmed this morning that a summit is scheduled to take place, but said the time and place are still subject to change.

Peace Measures Tied to Collaborators

TA2807185194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Israel has informed the Palestinian Authority it will not continue deliberations on confidence-building measures with the autonomy before the policy toward the Palestinian collaborators is changed. This was learned by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. Israel wants the hunt of those suspected of collaboration with it to stop, but its demand has not met with a favorable response to date.

UK Envoy Told of 'Deep Concern' on Terrorism

TA2807123994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Israel has criticized Britain for failing to adequately respond to the threat of terrorist attacks in London. The Foreign Ministry yesterday invited British Charge d'Affaires John White to convey Israel's concern. Yehuda Milo, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for Western Europe, told reporter Jack Katzenell about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Milo] We expressed deep concern with what is going on in London. We told the British Government, both in London and here, through the charge d'affaires, that more should be done. Immediately after the Buenos Aires explosion, we went to the foreign ministries all over the world and told the local authorities they should take more care and install more protection. Not only, by the way, around Israeli institutions—and it is not only embassies; you have banks, you have El Al offices, you have tourist information offices—but also Jewish institutions. The fact that it happened in

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London again, within 12 hours, was a little bit.... [pauses] It showed that things should have been done a little more quick and more intensified. [passage omitted]

International Counterterrorism Accord Reached

TA2907081194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Shlomo Shamir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to an agreement reached between Israeli intelligence elements and international security organizations, Israel will operate against terrorists abroad with the cooperation of all the intelligence bodies that maintain relations with Israel. A senior Israeli source said yesterday that "the purpose is to eliminate the terror squads operating around the world."

According to this agreement, Israel will hand over vast amounts of information to intelligence bodies in the countries where terror squads operate on behalf of Iran. A senior Israeli source noted that henceforth there will be tighter cooperation between all the intelligence and security bodies of a large number of countries with the purpose of fighting Islamic terror. According to this source, Israel will hit the squads and their controllers living abroad. At the end of its session yesterday, the cabinet announced that Israel would take action to capture and punish the perpetrators of terror attacks.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources yesterday denied reports concerning plans to launch a large-scale retaliatory operation in Lebanon. Nevertheless, the sources said, Israel will act against specific terrorist targets, including those in Lebanon, as it has done in the past. The IDF has been maintaining a high state of alert, particularly along the northern border and in the security zone in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lubrani: Iran Behind International Terror Wave

TA2907120094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, says that all of the international terror activities carry the clear fingerprints of Iran. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Uri Lubrani mentioned the name of Hizballah member 'Imad Maghniyah as an arch-terrorist, and as the man involved in the kidnapping of all the foreign hostages. In the past he was a member of Fatah's Force 17. According to Lubrani this man is possibly involved in Hizballah's international terror activity. Mr. Lubrani said the Iranians must be told that as long as they pursue their terror activity they will not belong to the civilized world.

Business Contacts by Iranian, Arab Firms Reported

TA2907115794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by Hadas Manor; names as transliterated]

[Text] The Israel-Arab Friendship Association, named after Adnan Khashoggi, has recently contacted an Iranian bank to execute a deal in which Israeli farming equipment will be sold to an Iranian businessman, through his Cairo representative.

The association is made up of 38 businessmen from Arab countries and Israel, and has so far focused on exchanging information. Recently, the association set up an Israeli company named Yarin Shalom 1 which will acquire capital for the development of projects in Arab countries.

The company will start its operations with $1.5 million which the association collected from donors. Among the first projects planned are the establishment of child care centers in Kuwait, based on Israeli know-how; establishing ties for shipping farming equipment to Iran (in the framework of which the Iranian bank was contacted); and establishing initial business ties on textiles between Israeli and Arab businessmen.

Among the members of the association are 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Fayj, the director general of the Saudi national oil company; Dr. Ahmad al-Sharif from Kuwait; and Munir Mahmud from Egypt. Yehoshu'a Me'iri, director general of the association, reported that the association has recently received several appeals for cooperation from Arab businessmen. Among others, an Iranian businessmen contacted the association through his representative in Cairo asking for Israeli farming information and equipment. Also, a Saudi businessman contacted the association on building an infrastructure for domestic flights in Saudi Arabia. Another appeal from Kuwait asked for advice on the establishment of child care centers. The appeal was directed to Dr. Yoram Zandhaus, in charge of child care centers in the Tel Aviv district. Also, the association has recently been contacted by Gulf states seeking cooperation and exchanges of information regarding the establishment of business ties on textile issues.

Lubrani: Hamas Offer on MIA 'Tactic'

TA2707161494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Terrorist operations against Israel have gone into a new phase, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities, stated today. He also commented on the statement issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] concerning its willingness to disclose the burial site of MIA Ilan Sa'adon in exchange for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Shaykh Karim 'Ubayd.

[Begin Lubrani recording] I think it is part of some tactic. I am not surprised that such an offer is being made in exchange for the release of Shaykh Yasin. Shaykh 'Ubayd is definitely one of the people we are holding for the purpose of dealing with terror and the taking of hostages. Consequently, it is not surprising to have 'Ubayd's name cropping up in such a context. [end recording]

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U.S. Urged To Keep Pledge on NATO Status

TA2807151594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel is demanding that the United States keep its commitment to grant it the status of a NATO member for the purpose of receiving U.S. military technology. The issue was raised in talks held by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri at the Pentagon and at the State Department.

The promise to grant Israel the status of NATO member for that purpose was given two years ago by Richard Cheney, defense secretary in the Bush administration, in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but the promise was not carried out, and the defense establishment is now demanding that the Americans uphold it.

The granting of NATO status to Israel entails legislation by Congress, which could take a year or more.

The prime minister called on President Bill Clinton to unfreeze a budget of over $50 million earmarked for byproducts in the Arrow missile project. Congress designated the money for Israel three years ago, but has so far not transferred it because of opposition in the Pentagon.

Rabin told journalists yesterday that "at a certain stage, they linked the transfer of the funds to the success of the missile project. There were two or three unsuccessful tests. The last one was very successful, but there is opposition in the Defense Department because it comes out of the defense budget. 'Ivri came with me to the meeting with the President, and Clinton asked him why there is Pentagon opposition."

According to Rabin, "the answer is simple: Their budget was cut. Over the past two years, the United State's defense procurement budget has dropped from $112 billion to $42 billion."

The prime minister said that "my policy is to explain to the Americans that if Israel is not militarily strong, peace does not have a chance. The President reiterated his commitment to the matter."

Clinton did not make any promises about the budget for the development of the Arrow, but according to Rabin, "for me, it is enough that the President heard about the Arrow, and the participants included Warren Christopher, Tony Lake, Dennis Ross, and Martin Indyk."

At the biannual Israeli-U.S. strategic talks, which open at the U.S. Army's War College today, reports will be heard on developments in Iran, Iraq, Yemen, the CIS, and North Korea. Major General 'Uzi Dayan and General Mike Ryan, the heads of the joint military committee, will present summaries of yesterday's committee's discussions.

New Liaison Commander With Lebanon Appointed

TA2807154794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p 15

[Report by Arye Kiesel]

[Text] Giyora 'Inbar this morning was appointed commander of the Liaison Unit with Lebanon and will be given the rank of brigadier general.

Brig. Gen. 'Inbar replaces Brig. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, who will soon be appointed head of the Operations Department in the General Staff. Brig. Gen. Ashkenazi replaces Brig. Gen. Shmu'el Arad, who will become commander of the Home Front Command and be given the rank of major general.

'Inbar, 39, is married with three children. He was born in Kibbutz Geva'. He commanded the Giv'ati Brigade and a reserves infantry battalion, served as acting chief operations officer in the Northern Command, commanded the northern battalion in Gaza, and was a special operations officer in the Northern Command.

Russian Bank To Open Branch in Tel Aviv

TA2807150694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p C1

[Report by Marit Gilat]

[Text] Russia's Mostroybank [name as transliterated], the fifth largest Russian bank, is opening a branch in Israel. The main purpose of the representation will be to prepare the ground for the establishment of an Israeli-Russian bank in cooperation with Israeli investors. This was reported yesterday by Mikhail Zhurbalyov, the bank's president and chairman of the board [name and title as transliterated] at a Tel Aviv news conference. The branch, which will be situated in Tel Aviv's Textile House, will be headed by Deputy Bank President Vladimir Rabotizhyev [name and title as transliterated], who was deputy foreign economic relations minister in the previous Russian Government.

Very few foreign banks are represented in Israel. Britain's Barclays Bank withdrew its investment in Mercantile Discount last year when it sold its half of the bank to its partner, Discount Bank, which now owns 100 percent of Mercantile's shares. Other banks operating in Israel are Poland's P.K.O. bank and Germany's trade union bank which owns Continental Bank with Hapo'alim Bank.

Relations Established With Cape Verde

TA2807145194 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 0829 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Communicated by the Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[Excerpt] Yesterday (Wednesday), 27.07.94, a joint declaration was signed between Israel and the Republic of

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Cape Verde, establishing diplomatic relations between the two nations for the first time.

The declaration was signed by the Israeli Ambassador in Lisbon, Mr. Binyamin Oron, and his counterpart from Cape Verde. [passage omitted]

Hebron Bomb Dismantled; 2 Injured in Ramallah

TA2807153894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] In Hebron today, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol prevented a grave disaster when it found a large explosive charge planted at the entrance to an Army lookout post near the Cave of the Patriarchs. The charge was set to explode when the soldiers arrived at the post. A Border Police bomb disposal expert dismantled the charge and no damage was caused.

In the central square in Ramallah, an Israeli civilian and border policeman were lightly injured today. The Israeli apparently lost his way and drove into Manara Square in the city. Dozens of local youths pelted the car with rocks, but the motorist fled the car and found refuge in a nearby store. The store owner and others defended the Israeli from the raging crowd and called the authorities. A Border Police patrol that arrived at the scene was also pelted with rocks. The Israeli car was set on fire and was completely gutted. The two injured men were taken for treatment at a nearby clinic.

Three Fatah Members Sentenced to Life

TA2707163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The military court in Ramallah has sentenced three Fatah members to life imprisonment for killing Jewish settler Hayim Mizrahi at a poultry farm last October. The court noted that the attack took place a month after the peace deal between Israel and the PLO.

Peres 'Determined To Ignore' Discord With Rabin

TA2807183994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Smadar Peled "during his visit in Cyprus" on 28 July—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] I am very proud in my heart that I had the strength to overcome all attempts to personally hurt me, that this has not diverted me from my path. Nobody will divert me from the path I am treading.

[Peled] Foreign Minister Peres, do you intend to resign in the wake of the distress caused you in Washington?

[Peres] If I have anything to announce, I will do so. To date, I am determined to ignore everything. I will not hide that I had very unpleasant moments. It was hard for me, but I am resolved, and this is the source of my strength too.

[Peled] Was your trip to Washington a mistake?

[Peres] No, I did not ask to go, but I think it would have been a mistake had I not travelled. How would have such a thing been construed? The prime minister and foreign minister and other ministers of a royal regime came; even the secretary of state and secretary of the treasury of a presidential regime came, and we would not have this from Israel? What are we, a kingdom?

Paper Views Rabin's Political Problems

TA2807132394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Return of the Winner"]

[Text] In ancient times, they would have built a triumphal arch for him. Even without the arch, however, Yitzhaq Rabin returned triumphant. He did not allow anybody to have any doubts or question his being the one and only winner. If truth be told, however, the results spoke for themselves. Yitzhaq Rabin indeed brought back if not a full contractual peace, then at least the end of the state of war with Jordan. No small feat in itself.

Nevertheless, one may question the style. When Menahem Begin brought back the peace with Egypt, he was no less bombastic but definitely less selfish. He did not turn the event into his own private party, to which only friends and groupies were invited. Still, we have been aware of Rabin's style since his coronation speech the day after the elections.

Render, therefore, unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's: a triumphant blare of trumpets. The moment its echoes die down, however, mounds of unsolved problems await him.

Topping the list is not necessarily his serious quarrel with the insulted foreign minister—which exceeds any they had in the past—but real problems: the political problem.

Rabin's greatest achievement in Washington—or at least what he presented as his greatest achievement—was restoring Husayn to his position as patron of the holy sites. This was a smart move which distanced 'Arafat from Jerusalem and relegated him to the status of mayor of Gaza.

'Arafat, however, is in possession of an agreement called the Declaration of Principles, which Rabin signed. And he has aspirations he does not intend to give up. He has already demanded a meeting of the Arab League to "restore him his rights in Jerusalem."

Speaking about this state of affairs in Washington, Rabin said: "Let them fight it out among themselves." The trouble is that Israel is somewhat involved in this mess.

And that is not all. Rabin has a problem with a minority government. Although he has managed quite well with it

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so far, the thought that the Knesset is not entirely in his pocket drives him up the wall. And, in order to attain a stable majority he struck a "dirty" deal with YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], which was disavowed by the High Court of Justice, and sold Israel's law book to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], despite Meretz's objections.

All these problems are waiting for him today, at the cabinet session, not to mention his friends, to whom he promised jobs as cabinet ministers as soon as he expands the coalition.

Should the victor be hailed? Yes, he should. But he should also be pitied. He will not have much rest during the Knesset recess.

Paper Urges Rabin To Make Peace With Opposition

TA2807133994 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "It Is Time To Make Peace at Home"]

[Text] Having returned from the voyage in which he laid the cornerstone for peace with Jordan and instilled great hope for true peace in our hearts, it is now time for peacemaker Rabin to make peace among us.

With just a little bit of goodwill, the prime minister can respond to Likud Chairman Netanyahu's recent hints regarding his willingness to hold a dialogue toward establishing a broad national understanding and consensus. The major opposition faction leader's belief that there are good prospects for an understanding with the leaders of the coalition, headed by the prime minister, is based on the prime minister's remarks concerning the future of the peace process, characterized by a strong bent toward preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state; preserving our settlements in the territories of Judaea and Samaria, the Jordan Rift Valley, and the Golan; and upholding sovereignty in united Jerusalem.

Now that peace with Jordan has been achieved, such a move is possible, necessary, and well advised. The Jordanian objection to and reservations about the Rabin-led left-wing government's allowing 'Arafat to establish a Palestinian state led by the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Judaea and Samaria are well known, although King Husayn has never publicly said as much. The Husayn-'Arafat conflict is bound to revolve around the issue of Jerusalem. Peres has given 'Arafat a letter ensuring his rights as caretaker of the holy sites of Jerusalem, while the prime minister has publicly announced that in the negotiations on the permanent status, Jordan will be granted high priority as caretaker of the Temple Mount and the holy sites.

A man who has struggled with dedication and determination to achieve peace with enemies while making material concessions can surely find an appropriate way to build bridges of understanding with approximately half the nation and reach a compromise with the representatives of sectors opposed to his policies. Instead of settling for a narrow outlook on the issues that have so far divided the national camps, Rabin can, with just a little bit of goodwill, discover that there are many basic issues on which the nation is united. The role of former governments in the attainment of peace with Jordan must not be either forgotten or overlooked.

A man who can be that generous to his enemies can surely muster sufficient powers to show understanding toward and affinity with his comrades in arms, his partners in the endeavor to build our ancient-new homeland. Rabin must not hastily reject the willingness of the majority of the opposition to meet him halfway; rather, he should act in the same spirit to which he referred in his speech: He who turns enemies to allies is a hero.

This point in the prime minister's speech should also apply to his approach to the national opposition. Instead of seeking coalition partners in splintered parties, he should seek broad national consensus: He who maketh peace in his high places, may he make peace for us and for all Israel, and say ye, Amen. Only then will we utter the prayer—"Blessed are you, O Lord, who has preserved us, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this time."

This is the time to make peace at home, to make genuine peace with our neighbors, and we shall say, Amen.

Majority Believes in Attaining 'New Middle East'

TA2907083994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p 1

[Public opinion poll by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: In view of what has been happening in our region, do you or do you not believe in the fulfillment of the vision about "a new Middle East?"

- Believe: 61 percent
- Do not believe: 39 percent

Question: Who should Israel award official status in the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem?

- Jordan: 28 percent
- Palestinians: 3 percent
- Both of them: 16 percent
- None of them: 48 percent
- Did not reply: 5 percent

The poll was conducted on 26 and 27 July among 504 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Interest Rates Up To Combat Inflation Trend

TA2707164294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld, Galit Lipkis Beck, and Rachel Neiman]

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[Text] The Bank of Israel announced yesterday it will raise interest rates half a percentage point on Thursday [28 July] to combat inflationary tendencies which are spreading beyond housing and fruit prices.

The move will bring interest rates on the central bank's daily loans to commercial banks to 12.5 percent, an increase which will be passed on to the banks' customers.

Many expected the rate hike after June's Consumer Price Index shot up by 1.4 percent, but were not sure how strongly the central bank would react.

Bank of Israel officials justified the moderate rate increase on the recent flare-up of inflation and, in particular, the 1.4 percent jump in prices last month compared to only 0.2 percent a year before. In addition, not only high housing and fruit prices contributed to last month's high index, but clothing and footwear prices rose 3.6 percent, health costs rose 1.3 percent and transportation and communications prices rose 1.1 percent.

The continued expansion in the volume of credit, which increased by 13 percent during the first half of the year, is another sign that real interest rates are low. According to central bank officials, current rates are lower than in the past and are lower than rates abroad.

Economists estimate that interest rates paid by commercial banks during the first half of the year have been negative based on an annual inflation rate of 14.5 percent.

The officials noted the move was necessary to curb the public's and the private sector's inflationary expectations. However, they said it was not enough, and that the government would have to move quickly and decisively to cut taxes, reduce and budget deficit and forge ahead with economic reforms which will increase competition and, thereby lower prices.

The central bank also called on the government to implement its housing program to lower housing prices and moderate their inflationary influence on the index.

Beyond the dark shadows cast by inflation, the economic picture is bright, the officials said. During the first five months of the year most indicators were positive. The first quarter was characterized by vigorous growth, which continued at a slower pace in April and May.

Industrial production, exports and retail trade continued growing throughout the first half of the year. Imports, which mostly consisted of industrial input and investment goods, also grew, reflecting producers' expectations for continued high levels of economic activity.

The recent drop in unemployment below 8 percent is another encouraging development, they said.

This positive picture of the economy emphasizes the importance of the fight against inflation, which is the only front where the government has not yet succeeded in meeting its goals.

Experience here and abroad shows that enduring economic expansion is impossible together with inflation since price stability and certainty are necessary for investment and increased productive employment, they added.

Dan Propper, president of the Manufacturer's Association, attacked the central bank's decision. "The Bank of Israel has to put a stop to the chain of interest rate rises and redefine the inflation goal and related monetary policy." Propper said the central bank has to clarify whether it stands behind its initial annual inflation goal of 8 percent. "If the inflation goal is higher, it is justified to raise the interest as well as the crawling peg."

He said industry will suffer due to the increase. The raising of interest rates significantly increases firms' financing expenses and slows down economic activity and demand on the local market.

Chamber of Commerce President Dani Gillerman also criticized the decision, and called for the government to implement anti- inflationary measures. Gillerman said the rate hike is potentially damaging to market growth and ineffective in the fight against inflation. He said the market "is in an state of inflation (in terms of) expenses and not demand," therefore, interest rates have no bearings on the central factors influencing the Cost-of-Living index.

Measures to inspire confidence were suggested, such as the immediate release of lands for housing, faster privatization and exposure, tax reform and budget-tightening measures.

On Thursday, the Bank of Israel will cut five quotas of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 215 million each, for credit it provides commercial banks at interest levels of 11.3 percent to 11.7 percent, bringing up the interest floor by 0.5 percent to 11.8 percent.

At the same time, it will raise the interest it pays banks for their reserve deposits to 11.3 percent, up from 10.8 percent. The central bank also announced it will make available next month five weekly tenders of NIS 6 billion. It will continue offering weekly tenders of NIS 450m. to the public for credit over a four-week period.

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Government Statement Defines Jerusalem Stand

JN2907082894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The Jordanian Government yesterday issued the following official statement concerning the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem:

Following the Washington Declaration, various media organs reported stands and statements on the third clause of the Washington Declaration dealing with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's historical role toward the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Proceeding from its eagerness to clarify its stand on this important issue, the Jordanian Government announces the following:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's position toward the issue of Jerusalem and the holy shrines is clear and stems from the following unchanging stands:

First, Jerusalem is a Muslim and Arab territory that was occupied in 1967 as part of the territories of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. What applies to Jerusalem would also apply to the occupied Arab territories included in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Second, in 1974, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan accepted the Rabat summit resolution which considers the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Third, in adherence to the Rabat summit resolution, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan fully supported the PLO and coordinated with it to achieve Arab rights in the occupied territories.

Fourth, in order to enable the Palestinian Arab people to establish their independent state on their national soil, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1988 decided to sever its legal and administrative links with the West Bank. The decision excluded the awqaf, Islamic and holy affairs, as well as Islamic sharia courts in continuation of the Hashemites' role in taking care of these holy shrines and in order to protect them from falling directly under the occupation and foreign control. The PLO blessed and approved this decision, which continues to be valid until now.

Fifth, in light of what has been said, it is obvious that there is no contradiction between restoring political sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem through Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the continuance of Jordan's role in practicing its religious custody over the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Sixth, moreover, in view of these constant positions and facts, it should also be clear that the Washington Declaration is only a reiteration of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's role and that of the Hashemites during their long history of working to achieve the Islamic and Arab interest, including the Palestinian interest.

Hence, the Washington Declaration recognizes the Hashemites' right to take care of the holy shrines and does not establish their right to that. This was clear throughout the stages of Hashemite reconstruction of the Holy al-Aqsa Mosque and the blessed Dome of the Rock in 1924, 1944, 1952, and 1994.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, astonished by news agency statements, stands, and interpretations in this regard, reiterates that the constant Jordanian positions toward Holy Jerusalem, in terms of territory and holy shrines, and other occupied Arab territories are clear and do not need new explanations.

These constant positions are derived from Jordan's commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, support for the PLO and its efforts to gain political and geographical sovereignty over all the occupied Palestinian Arab territories, including Holy Jerusalem, and continuance of Jordan's historical role in exercising religious custody over the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. Moreover, Jordan is concerned about holding the necessary contacts to reach a formula that achieves the higher Islamic interest in protecting the holy shrines.

Al-'Anani on Washington Declaration 'Dividends'

JN2907103594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1734 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Statements by Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani made during a panel discussion conducted by Jordan Television in Washington, following the signing of the Washington Declaration, with the participation of Jordanian newspaper editors; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Regarding the question of Jerusalem as it featured in the Washington Declaration, to begin with, people are discussing it as if we are talking about Jerusalem as such. We are not talking about Jerusalem. It is worth clarifying this point. Lest we get carried away ...[pauses] The Washington Declaration addresses the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. Once the issue is confined to this side, it will then be possible to see it in perspective. His majesty's speech to the American Congress addressed the geographic authority or sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem that must revert to whom it belongs by rights. Let us look at present realities on the ground. What are these? The Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles left four issues on hold—the refugees, borders, settlements, and Jerusalem. The Israelis have shown flexibility over the first three issues. Also, Rabin did not say that Jerusalem shall forever remain the united capital of Israel. Even Rabin's repeated reference to Amman and Jerusalem was deliberate. The repetition was purposeful. We are in a transitional stage; the Jerusalem issue will wait. Suppose the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf withheld its support for the holy sites and left a vacuum? We as Arabs mishandled

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the question of Jerusalem by giving the UNESCO a role there; we had created a gap through which the Temple Mount Faithful nearly penetrated to change the features of the Islamic holy sites. Here, we are not talking about a historical responsibility only; we are also discussing a religious responsibility toward an issue of which the political aspect remains to be addressed at the negotiating table. The religious aspect of Jerusalem is too weighty an issue to be tampered with. What Jordan obtained in the way of it continuing to perform the role of trusted guardian to look after the holy places in Jerusalem should help preserve them. Once final settlements are agreed on, Jordan will accommodate whatever solution proves acceptable to all parties. We must view this issue with real seriousness. I think that, on that score, Jordan has scored a major success in that the supervision of the waqfs [trusts] will remain intact. The Hashemite family represented by the Jordanian Awqaf department...[pauses] We capitalized on the Hashemite family's stature and long history in the interest of a decision that, through the medium of the Awqaf Ministry, secures our responsibilities and safeguards for us the unity of the holy places. [passage omitted]

Naturally, economically speaking, Jordan will reap direct and indirect benifts from the Washington Declaration. As for the direct benefits, the debts are a real headache. Should the United States forgive Jordan's official debts, the decision would be the first step toward the write-off of other debts. The official debts amount to some $750 million. There are another as yet disputed $200 million. According to a World Bank study, if Jordan aspires to a level where the debt burden will be acceptable internationally, its debts must be reduced by $2.3 billion. If these loans are forgiven, easy loans remain, and these may be settled over an extended period of time. We hope to get better results, God willing. Concerning, the assistance and aid for Jordanian projects, there will be special funding arrangements. There will also be military assistance to ease the burden on the budget. There are other things. I think that Jordan deserves to have certain arrangements on a continual basis, not only to ease its debt problem in terms of the amount it pays back, but also to augment its income to finance its projects. There are other obvious dividends from the Washington Declaration. Our country has been starved for investment even by Jordanians who have always sought short-term investment, in the absence of long-term planning. We must now work to promote stability and tranquility to attract further investment and create further investment opportunities for local financiers. These are important issues. We have to address joblessness and poverty and other social ills in order for the people to sense that the savings made from converting funds from the military effort to civilian sector has helped solve economic and social problems. [passage omitted]

French, Lithuanian Presidents Congratulate King

JN2807142194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable of appreciation and admiration from His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand, in which he valued his majesty's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. President Mitterrand said he and the French people were happy about the Washington Declaration, signed with the Israeli prime minister. He added: If anything, the decision shows great farsightedness and wonderful political courage.

His Majesty King Husayn has received a similar cable from the president of the Republic of Lithuania, who expressed his congratulations on the signing of the joint declaration of principles. He hoped this will lay a solid foundation for future agreements.

Political and media quarters the world over are still highlighting His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the Israeli prime minister in Washington and the signing of the Washington Declaration on 25 July. These quarters have underscored the importance of the event, calling it an active achievement to support the Middle East peace process. In fact, the dimensions of this accomplishment may extend to enhance world peace. [passage omitted]

Parliamentarians Reject Washington Declaration

JN2807175694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Amman—Sixteen Jordanian parliamentarians representing the Islamic Action Front Party at the Jordanian House of Representatives have announced their total rejection of the Washington Declaration and its consequences.

In a statement distributed in Amman today, the deputies said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war with Israel and grants it sovereignty and security on the land of Palestine without any commitment from the Israeli negotiator toward Arab Jordanian or Palestinian rights.

The Jordanian deputies said this declaration gives Israel sovereignty over holy Jerusalem in return for participation in a symbolic supervision of the holy shrines. This, the deputies said, is a heavy blow to the aspirations of the nation which, generation after generation, sought to attain sovereignty over Jerusalem. Nobody has the right to cede this sovereignty because it is a concession by someone who does not possess it to someone who does not deserve it.

Explaining to the Jordanian people the reasons for their total rejection of the Washington Declaration, the deputies said this declaration is a normalization of relations with Israel on all security, cultural, political, economic, and touristic levels. This means a national catastrophe,

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in front of the approaching Israeli conquest, which will peacefully achieve much more than it achieved militarily. The deputies said the Washington Declaration was not based on the people's will and was not discussed at the House of Representatives. They regretted and protested the House speaker's participation in these meetings without obtaining the House's approval.

In their statement, the deputies said this is a declaration accompanied by a campaign of disinformation and forgery of the people's will. The people were depicted as if they were unanimously supportive of this process, although facts say otherwise. The statement added: This declaration ends decades of struggle and massive sacrifices in a sad and tragic way. This declaration will also complicate the Jordanian relations with Arab brothers in return for a rapprochement with the Israeli enemy.

Concluding, the deputies said: We reject all meetings with the enemy, secret or public, and do not recognize any of their results. We call on our people to declare their rejection of these agreements which will benefit none but the enemy.

The Palestinian Coordination and Follow-up Committee of the Arab Democratic Revolutionary Convention [lajnat al-tansiq wa al-mutaba'ah al-filastiniyah li-multaqa al-hiwar al-'arabi al-thawri al-dimuqrati] today criticized the Jordanian step, represented by the Wadi al-'Arabah negotiations with Israel, Jordanian King Husayn's meeting with the Israeli prime minister in Washington, and the two sides' declaration of the end of state of war between them. In a political statement distributed today, the committee said ending the state of war with Israel does not end the current struggle for existence between our Arab nation and Israel. Moreover, the Washington Declaration's recognition of a Jordanian role in the holy shrines is a Jordanian relinquishment and abandonment of Jerusalem and an abridgement of its cause. The committee called on the Jordanian popular forces to close their ranks and topple all agreements relinquishing the cause of Palestine.

Hasan, Brotherhood Leaders Discuss Opposition

JN2807132394 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 27-28 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Muslim Brotherhood sources have told AKHIR KHABAR that attorney 'Abd-al-Majid Dhunaybat visited His Highness Crown Prince Hasan two days after he was elected controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Prince Hasan congratulated Dhunaybat, and then accompanied him on a courtesy visit to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the former Muslim Brotherhood controller general, whom Dhunaybat and other Muslim Brotherhood leaders emphasized is still an important authority for the group in Jordan.

The tripartite meeting discussed the current situation in detail and in an amicable framework. Discussions also dealt how the opposition is supposed to express a position on negotiations.

The Islamists spoke clearly about their constants concerning relations with the leadership, and expressed their firm position on Jewish ambitions and their political stand on what is going on.

Shaykh Khalifah called for safeguarding Jordan. The sources quoted him as telling the crown prince: Palestine has gone, so let us think of protecting Jordan. He said the Muslim Brotherhood is directly concerned about this objective.

His Highness Prince Hasan emphasized the principled nature of Jordanian democracy, and stressed the importance of commitment to legal and constitutional peaceful expression by the opposition.

Opposition Parties Protest Media 'Blackout'

JN2807141094 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jul 94, pp 28, 25

[Text] The political leftist, pan-Arab, and Islamic parties have criticized what they called the continued blackout by official Jordanian "television and radio" media in order to prevent other opinions from being heard by the people.

In a memorandum presented to Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, these parties said this blackout is also practiced indirectly by the Jordanian press. The memorandum said these parties do not object to the government's right to express its view, since it is the side that is carrying out these negotiations, but these parties do not accept the government claim that through its position and media it represents all the people; they do not agree to the government's turning its back on national Jordanian establishments, represented by political parties, social figures, and trade unions that have expressed their position on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations.

The memorandum warned that the behavior of official media casts doubt about the democratic march, leads to division within national ranks, and weakens Jordan's position and national and regional role.

The memorandum was signed by the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd), the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian-Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalization, the Islamic Action Front, The Jordanian Democratic Socialist Party, and the Democratic Popular Unity Party.

Minister, Party Leaders Discuss 'Self-Expression'

JN2807162594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] A meeting was held today in the Interior Ministry's conference room between Interior Minister Salamah Hammad and the heads and secretaries general of eight Jordanian political parties opposed to the peace

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process. The conferees exchanged views about issues of national interest for the democratic process and freedom of expression. They also discussed some violations in party activity, related to party budgetary affairs and the party press. They also discussed some party violations of the law.

A frank and objective dialogue took place, during which the interior minister stressed the importance of self-expression in a democratic fashion and within the provisions of the law.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed to continue meetings and an exchange of views to enhance the democratic process in the country.

'Sources' on Bombings, Impact of Israel Talks

MM2807103094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat and Ruba al-Husari: "Jordan Links Bombings to Progress in Its Negotiations With Israel"]

[Excerpts] Washington, occupied Jerusalem—Sources of the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Husayn in Washington yesterday linked the bombing incidents in Buenos Aires last week and in London the day before yesterday to the progress taking place on the Jordanian-Israeli track in the peace process. [passage omitted]

Sources of the Jordanian delegation told AL-HAYAH that "one cannot ignore the fact that the first incident (in Buenos Aires) coincided with the launch of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah, and the second coincided with the meeting held in the White House between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin."

The sources pointed out that the Jordanian authorities concerned "are following up the results of the investigations" into the two incidents. "The striking thing is that we did not experience any terrorist operations of this kind after the Oslo accord until the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations were launched in Wadi al-'Arabah."

The sources stressed that they "rule out" that the Islamic opposition in Jordan or any other Jordanian quarter has "any link" with the bombing incidents in Buenos Aires and London.

A Jordanian official told AL-HAYAH that the progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track "helped to move the Palestinian-Israeli track out of the state of deadlock and frustration we witnessed recently." The official pointed out that the Palestinian track's faltering over improving economic conditions in the Palestinian self-rule areas "had begun to adversely affect the thrust of the peace process before the breakthrough on the Jordanian track."

The source expected the recent progress in the peace process to lead to "an end to the state of expectation among economic circles in Jordan and the occupied territories," which has led to "negative results, most notably the 'dollarization' of the economy because of the fears that accompanied frustration in the occupied territories."

The official pointed out that the U.S. Administration's decision to submit a bill to Congress calling for writing off some $685 from the debts owed to the United States over three years "will strengthen confidence in the Jordanian economy." The official stressed the importance of "telling citizens that progress in the peace process will result in an improvement in the economy on the ground, and hence in their living standard."

A Jordanian official in the delegation accompanying King Husayn said that the Jordanian monarch's meeting with the Israeli prime minister and Washington's announcement of its full support for Jordan "have completely ended the negative effects of the Gulf crisis vis-a-vis Jordanian-U.S. relations and granted Jordan a principal role in the peace process in the stage ahead."

The official added that what has happened over the past three days "confirms U.S. and Israeli acknowledgment of the importance of Jordan's role in influencing the peace process as a whole." The official pointed out that the progress on the Jordanian track "will rapidly push toward progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks." The official said that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations "have in practice moved from the strategic political decision stage to the stage of implementation on the ground and the stage of discussing the details and technical matters." [passage omitted]

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Buwayz Denies Reports of Possible Extraditions

NC2807133494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced that it is possible Israel will once again resort to escalating the situation either to bypass political events or to satisfy those who consider themselves victims of these events. Buwayz noted that reports regarding Argentina's request to extradite Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and a number of Hizballah figures are not correct. He stressed that Lebanon does not accept any request to hand over any person in the absence of a concrete and realistic judicial file with clear evidence. The foreign minister ruled out the possibility that relations between Lebanon and Argentina will be broken.

In a news conference he held at the Foreign Ministry, Faris Buwayz pointed out that there are many indications regarding probable American impetus to activate the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace talks.

Argentine Extradition Request Said Rejected

MM2907114594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Rejects Argentine Request to Extradite al-Tufayli, Believes It Arbitrary and Made on Direct Orders from Mosad"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—A ministerial source has said that Lebanon has rejected Argentina's request to extradite Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former secretary general of Hizballah, on the pretext that he has a link with the explosion in the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. The source stressed that the Argentine Government's request "was taken arbitrarily and on direct orders from the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad), not as a result of an investigation conducted by competent authorities through which they found evidence of his link."

The source stressed to AL-HAYAH that Lebanon has recently received two messages from the Argentine Government through its ambassador in Buenos Aires, Riyad al-Qantar, containing an indirect request for the extradition of Shaykh al-Tufayli and certain other, unnamed elements.

The sources said that the Argentine request "lacks any evidence, proofs, or factual findings to prove that Shaykh al-Tufayli or any Lebanese or non-Lebanese group residing on Lebanese territory has any link with the Jewish center bombing. Besides, the Argentine request contravenes the rules applied among states as regards the extradition of wanted people."

The source revealed that Argentine messages to Beirut via Ambassador al-Qantar contain no evidence and are based primarily on news reports carried by the media, some of which hastened to denied what they had reported about the link of the so-called "Ansarallah's" with the bombing incident. Besides, the reports were based on "information" provided to an Argentine judge by a dissident Iranian living in Caracas (Venezuela) who supplied him with some names.

On the nature of the Lebanese reply to the Argentine request, the source told AL-HAYAH that the Lebanese Government has stressed that there is no political organization with the name "Ansarallah" and has ruled out the suggestion that any Lebanese or foreign party residing on Lebanese territory has any link with the incident.

The source stressed that the Argentine Government "is anxious to perform a 'fuite en avant.'" And that President Carlos Menem "made his accusation following a direct request from Mosad, which he met by promising to level the accusation against a fundamentalist party like Hizballah."

The source pointed out that Argentina's request is "suspicious" and that the government had urged Buenos Aires to "conduct an investigation and provide us with the results. Whereupon, if there is any evidence of the involvement of any Lebanese group, we will do our duty, even though we firmly believe that no one in Lebanon has any link with the bombing incident. And the accusation leveled at Shaykh al-Tufayli on the pretext that he is the leader of 'Ansarallah' is not supported by evidence or factual findings."

The source said that Argentina's request "lacks any physical evidence. As for the form, an extradition request should come accompanied by a file in order to get any wanted person handed over—which was not the case with the request we received via Ambassador al-Qantar." The source added that "any extradition request should contain the results of the investigation—which has not happened, as the request contained nothing except the rumors released by the media and whose source is Tel Aviv."

The source wondered: "Is the government allowed to extradite any Lebanese or foreign person residing on Lebanese territory merely because of a word said or a rumor circulated by Israel." The source stressed that the Lebanese Government has conveyed to Ambassador al-Qantar through the Foreign Ministry a clear position condemning acts of violence against civilians. And that the statement attributed to the "Ansarullah" organization does not constitute evidence or proof, especially as the statement was later denied as a whole and in detail.

In this context Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has told AL-HAYAH that "anyone who watches developments beginning with the Argentina bombing through to the accusation leveled at us—given that there were no prior information—can conclude that the accusations are based on no evidence and were fabricated to divert attention to a quarter hostile to Israel in order to relieve the Israeli Government of the popular pressure it is under and in order to enable it to exploit the incident in the direction it wants."

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Hizballah's al-Tufayli Denies Bombing Involvement

NC2807191794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1809 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Interview with Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former leader of Hizballah, by MBC Beirut correspondent Jad al-Akhawi, in Ba'labakk, Lebanon on 28 July—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Akhawi] Do you have any connection with the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires?

[Al-Tufayli] We have no direct or indirect connection with what happened in Argentina, or even in London. The accusation made against us is in our view a hostile accusation that is part of the U.S.-Zionist onslaught against people who oppose the regional peace agreements. The method and timing of the accusations, made soon after the incidents occurred and directed with great fanfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hizballah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other groups opposed to peace with the Zionist entity, show that this is a political attitude, not a criminal investigation. The accusations are made without evidence, without proof. Those who make the accusations try to direct them at people or groups connected with the Middle East.

Let us be clear: We do not believe in negotiating with the Zionist entity. We do not believe that we can regain our rights by diplomatic means; we believe we can regain our rights only with our hands. Hence, we carry out a jihad and shoulder the burden of resisting the Zionist enemy. We do not hesitate to carry out a military action that we judge will serve our interests. For this reason we might escalate the military situation in the future, rather than the opposite. This depends on the circumstances of the battle between us and our enemy.

Ministries 'On Alert' for Israeli Attacks

NC2807170294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij and Health Minister Marwan Hamadah have placed their ministries on alert in implementation of the cabinet instructions to remain fully prepared for any eventuality in view of Israel's threats.

Minister Hamadah this morning met senior aides and discussed various precautionary measures. Hamadah called on private hospitals to cooperate with the Health Ministry.

Minister Mirhij will hold a meeting with the Central Internal Security Council tomorrow to discuss recent security developments.

Shams-al-Din Predicts 'Large' Israeli Offensive

NC2807181094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, predicted a large-scale Israeli offensive against Lebanon. Underlining the legitimacy of resistance to occupation, he said that Lebanon is not responsible for anything that happens to the Israelis or their interests the world over. He called for unity and harmony on the home front as a precaution against developments in the region.

Shams-al-Din said that Lebanon and the region are going through a critical stage and that perils will pile up unless we understand our responsibilities, unite our national will, and maintain our political resolve. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Bloc of Loyalty to the Resistance [Hizballah parliamentarians] has stated that the Israeli threats against Lebanon, its people, and its resistance, are a new declaration of war and a continuation of Israel's bellicose policies. In making these threats, Israel hopes to pressure Lebanon into ceasing its resistance to the occupation, the Bloc said.

Prime Minister Signs Media Bill

NC2807201894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] This evening, Prime Minister al-Hariri signed the bill allowing audio and visual media to broadcast news and political programs. He referred it to the president. Informed sources said President Ilyas al-Hirawi will sign the bill tomorrow. The bill will then be published in a supplement to the official gazette. It will go into effect as soon as it is published in the official gazette.

President Signs Bill

NC2907082494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has signed the bill restoring the broadcasting of news on radio and television. The bill was included in the official gazette published yesterday.

A statement issued by the Presidential Office's information department said: Law No. 353 dated 28 July 1994 on television and radio broadcasts was published in the 30th edition of the official gazette of 28 July 1994 after it was signed by His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Al-Hariri Visits Fadlallah, Discusses Developments

NC2807193394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] At 2030 today at his home in Harat Hurayk, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah received Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and reviewed with him for an hour the latest developments in Lebanon and the region.

Al-Hariri Leaves on Private Visit to Saudi Arabia

NC2807195294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut this evening for Jiddah on a two-day private visit, after which he will return to Beirut.

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Prosecutor Seeks Retrial in Killing of U.S. Envoy

NC2907071494 Paris AFP in English 2129 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 28 (AFP)—State Prosecutor Munif 'Uwaydat on Thursday urged the court of appeal for a re-trial in the case of two Lebanese implicated in the 1976 murder of US ambassador Francis Melloy and another American diplomat.

Namiq Ahmad Kamil was sentenced to four years of hard labour on July 21 for his participation in the abduction of Melloy, first secretary Robert Warring and their Lebanese driver Muhammad Miqdad. The three were later killed.

Another suspect, Basim Muhammad Firkh, was acquitted while a third Lebanese, Tawfiq Faruq, is on the run.

'Uwaydat argued in a file he submitted Thursday to the court of appeal that the verdict issued on July 21 was lenient because it was based on an amnesty law dating from the end of the Lebanese war in 1991, legal sources said.

He also asked that Kamil and Firkh be re-tried this time for their alleged participation in the murder of Melloy and his companions, the sources added.

Court sources meanwhile reported that Kamil also planned to appeal against the July 21 verdict and had hired a new influential Lebanese lawyer to handle the case.

Melloy, Robert Warring and their driver were abducted at a checkpoint manned by Lebanese militiamen close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on June 16, 1976.

Their bodies were found the next day in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war was marked by violence including the kidnapping and murder of foreigners, many of them US citizens.

Kamil had turned himself in two months ago. Initially he was sentenced in absentia to hard labour for life along with Firkh for involvement in the abduction and murder of the diplomats and driver.

But the May 5 verdict was later scrapped and a second trial arranged after the surprise discovery of Firkh in a Lebanese jail. He had been in prison on drugs charges since March 1993.

Lebanon decided earlier this year to speed up legal procedures and tighten security after a church bombing in February that killed 11 people.

In March, the authorities brought back the death penalty for political crimes.

The first execution since 1983 took place in April. Three other people have also been hanged and a drug trafficker was executed by firing squad.

Amal Resistance Groups Attack Positions 27 Jul

NC2807114894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] At 2230 yesterday, Kafr Rumman came under artillery fire for about one hour from occupation forces' positions in al-Suwayda' and al-Zaffatah. The shelling extended to the eastern edge of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit. The shelling was accompanied by bursts of machine-gun fire at al-Nabatiyah. Flares were fired over the eastern heights overlooking al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages, causing fires on property and in houses in Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

A group of Lebanese Resistance Brigades-Amal used automatic weapons, rockets, and mortars to attack the al-Tuhrah position held by the Israeli occupation forces and the Agent Lahd militia at 2245 yesterday. At the same time another group attacked the Tallat al- Suwayda' position. A 30-minute clash ensued between the Resistance fighters and post sentries resulting in the destruction of a tank at the al-Tuhrah position and the killing or wounding of its crew. A 12.7-mm machine gun emplacement in the al-Suwayda' position received a direct hit.

At about 2345 yesterday, other Resistance Brigades groups carried out a series of attacks against positions on the 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Burj hills, using rockets and automatic weapons. Fire was seen rising from the two positions. At about 2400 a Resistance group attacked the Kafr Tibnit crossing point held by the enemy and the agents, destroying the observation rooms at the crossing point. The number of casualties could not be determined.

Reports from the south say Resistance fighters attacked an Agent position on the al-Dabshah hill at 2200 yesterday, setting it on fire.

Villagers Hold Sit-In To Protest Israeli Siege

NC2807181294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces are continuing for the fourth consecutive day their siege of Yuhmur village. Some inhabitants, stranded outside their village, held a sit-in at the Red Cross offices in al-Nabatiyah, to protest the siege. [passage omitted]

A delegation of villagers visited State Minister 'Ali 'Usayran. They explained to him the ordeal of the besieged village and asked him to foil Israel's attempt to include Yuhmur within the security strip. [passage omitted]

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Foreign Minister Returns From France

JN2807194094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening following a three-day official visit to France. During his visit, al-Shar' met with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

Position 'Not Affected' by Jordan-Israel Deal

MM2807143094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p3

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo: "Damascus Stresses That the Jordanian-Israeli Agreement Will Not Weaken Its Position or Change Its Terms"]

[Excerpts] While U.S. President Clinton, after overseeing the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli declaration, was emphasizing that the United States was moving confidently towards creating the right atmosphere to help promote a Syrian and Israeli sense of security in the interest of total and comprehensive peace, Syria said yesterday that it would not give in to any pressure and would not forfeit an inch of its national soil nor be dragged into a situation that would not serve the nation's higher interests.

A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Syrian demands can be found in the UN resolutions which consider the Israeli measures to be null and void and without any legal grounds. The Syrian official added: Syria has not been affected at all by the agreement signed by Jordan and Israel. The decision to end the state of war between Israel and Jordan will not weaken Syria's position because Syria and the whole world, and especially Israel, realize that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and without peace with Syria.

He added: Syria does not stand alone in the face of the Israeli separate approach. It is supported by Lebanon and the Arab people in Syria and Lebanon who will not retract from their unified position which upholds their idea of peace which fulfills their aspirations and right to have their occupied territories back in full.

He also said that the strength of Lebanon and Syria lies in the fact that there can be no future for any Middle East peace without their effective participation, and that the Syrian role was and still is a leading role in the region. [passage omitted]

According to informed political sources in Cairo, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will, on his next tour of the region in the first week of next month, bring with him a plan for a declaration of principles between Israel and Syria, stipulating in its first article two main points related to the termination of the state of war between the two countries in return for an official declaration of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and also calling for extensive Syrian-Israeli meetings to draft the declaration in Washington prior to its signing by the two countries.

The sources added that Christopher will give Syria special U.S. undertakings guaranteeing Syria's security and sovereignty over all the Golan as well as a promise of Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. They said that one of Christopher's aides accompanying him on the tour will visit Beirut to offer a similar plan for a declaration of principles that would end the state of war between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Syrian political sources have criticized what they called the Israeli trusteeship over Jerusalem with Jordan's participation. They said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement paved the way for what we are seeing now in terms of normalization of relations, Israeli trusteeship over the fate of the Palestinian people, and abandonment of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

'Massive' Israeli Aggression on Lebanon Expected

JN2907085194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH writes that the cause of peace is hardly advanced by threats of aggression. For days, Israel has been issuing threats against Lebanon, massing further troops under pretexts that exist only in Israel's imagination.

The Tel Aviv government, casting about for pretexts for the aggression threatened by Israeli Army generals, is bent on exacting revenge on a steadfast Lebanon, for having refused to give in to its capitulationist terms. One such pretext is the bombings of Israeli and Jewish targets in Buenos Aires and London. Lebanon is not remotely connected with these blasts. Israel wants Lebanon to conclude a peace treaty on the former's terms. If Lebanon—wedded to the foundations on which a just and comprehensive peace must be built—does not oblige, as it certainly won't, according to President al-Hirawi, it will likely come under a massive Israeli aggression. Lebanon, AL-BA'TH emphasizes, will not subscribe to an incomplete peace that devalues its territory and people.

Those who are after a just and comprehensive peace, at least, do not keep issuing threats. Peace can hardly be advanced by threats; peace comes through the implementation of UN resolutions and an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, AL-BA'TH concludes.

The same theme is addressed by AL-THAWRAH. All indications point to a possible substantial Israeli military operation within the framework of its open war against Lebanon. Israel, AL-THAWRAH adds, wants to get even with Lebanon for having survived its military muscle

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and taken a determined stand in defense of its territories and rights. Its dire conditions notwithstanding, Lebanon has withstood Israel's military and other pressure and spurned the option of separate deals, preferring coordination with fellow Arabs, particularly with Syria.

It is common knowledge that Syria has consistently taken Lebanon's side as it coped with its trials, AL-THAWRAH observes.

Syria has pursued consistent and steady policies on Arab causes. As much as Syria is anxious to see peace established on well known bases, under no amount of pressure will it give ground on matters of substance and principle. Syria has always intimated its support for Lebanon and the two have made it plain they are committed to a just and comprehensive peace.

If Israel's acts of aggression in southern Lebanon were truly prompted by security concerns, it would take the short cut of honoring UN Security Council Resolution 425 and accommodating the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace as described by UN resolutions that provide for security, peace, and stability for all parties, concludes AL-THAWRAH.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Address to Herat Shura

LD2807212394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1610 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Speech by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to a shura held in Herat; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage indistinct] I want to mention the point here that the purpose of my participation in this meeting is to come here—and the leaders of the organizations should also come—and then transfer power to this shura. [words indistinct] I do not want to assess in detail the incidents that have taken place since the victory of the Islamic revolution. But I should mention one point. [Words indistinct] and reach a settlement in this meeting on the transfer of power. On the basis of the Holy Mecca agreement, though the other side has attached no importance to the Holy Mecca agreement and the Islamabad and Jalalabad agreements, though I did not assume the responsibility of the presidency through Islamabad and Jalalabad and the Holy Mecca agreements but on the basis of the decision of the Resolution and Settlement Council [shura-ye hal wa 'aqd] [words indistinct], the power should be transferred to a responsible side. And I asked [Herat governor] Isma'il Khan to emphasize this fact. Isma'il Khan contacted me on the telephone. [He said] The meeting wanted—most of the governors—to extend [Rabbani's presidential term]. I am facing a problem. You think again. I wrote another letter, addressed to brother Mr. Deljo [acting minister of culture and information], and once again I emphasized the need to tell the brothers who oppose [my stepping down] and back the extension [of my presidency], that I do not like this, on the basis of the settlement reached the transfer of power should take place. [words indistinct] I declared that after this I will not give myself the right to decide about national issues, and, similarly, some other brothers should not give themselves the right to decide on all issues of the country. [applause]

The Muslim nation should decide itself. Anyway the brothers have put this responsibility on my shoulders for some more days—I do not know for how many days—again. Really it is a very heavy weight on my shoulders. This weight is not a simple weight. Anyway I should make this point about the present state. The transfer of power will take place in another form when the Loya Jerga and the grand Islamic council are formed [words indistinct] This state has not been established on the basis of the monopoly of power. On the basis of standards and norms of the country, the Resolution and Settlement Council, the council which is criticized by friends and brothers—it would not be an exaggeration if I claimed that, in the history of our country, it was the soundest council. Why? Because the state had no special and privileged role over the other eight persons [eight jehadi leaders]. They appointed representatives of the parties themselves and sent them to the provinces. And in provinces you see that our governors are not state-appointed governors. The esteemed governors have been elected by the people themselves [applause]. [words indistinct]

The governors do not belong to the state or a party but the governors have been appointed by the free will of the people and have been elected by them. Their decision was their own decision. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Anyway we never wanted to reach a settlement out of our country. But in the month of Ramadan [Golboddin] Hekmatyar's rocket war started. [words indistinct] We started to search for a solution. The leaders of the Islamic countries, of the friendly countries of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iran, sent me letters, messages, proposing talks about the problem. We went to Islamabad without our hearts wanting so. In Islamabad the efforts of the three fraternal countries led to Hekmatyar becoming the prime minister. I told the brothers that the problem could not be resolved by his accession. But they insisted that [word indistinct] the prime minister, the problem would be resolved. I told them there that I would approve this provided you guarantee—especially I told the Pakistani brothers—that henceforth interference in the internal affairs of our country would cease. They asked whether I entertained this view. I said: We see it in practice. Is it possible for a party to fight against us for six months without foreign aid. [Words indistinct] before we returned from the Holy Mecca, Hekmatyar started fighting in Sarobi. We had not yet returned from Mecca and Tehran before he started fighting. [words indistinct]

As a prime minister [words indistinct] he started attacking Kabul by rockets. Nevertheless, it is a long story. I do not want to talk about this. [words indistinct] We have not grasped power by force. A government was set up in accordance with a number of decisions made by the esteemed formations' leaders themselves and on the basis of a decision rendered by the Shura-e Hal wa Aqd—a government in which every formation has two ministers [words indistinct]. Some formations even have four or five ministers in this government, while the ruling party has no more than two ministers in this government.

The opposition started fighting under various excuses. [words indistinct] in fact intended to fan racial issues and tribal issues. [words indistinct] the Shura-e Hal wa Aqd attended by brethren from Kandahar, Helmand, Zabol, Ghazni, Logar, Wardak, Paktia, Paktika, Logar, Konar, and other south and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan. There were delegates from Kandahar who had their own differences, but finally they all cast their vote positively. No one was in disagreement from Helmand. No one voted against us from Zabol or Ghazni. Delegates from Paktia cast their votes positively, though there was some opposition.

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Our nation proved that they are a Muslim nation. This nation would not allow any (?party or formation) to jeopardize the national unity of Afghanistan.

You have been witnesses to all these conspiracies, such as an attempt to force a number of provinces to boycott. The opposition was (?forcing) Kandahar, Zabol, Helmand, Paktia, and Paktika Provinces to boycott the shura. (?They were attempting to fan discord among Sunni and Shi'a sects). But you see today that Sunni and Shi'a, as they were together yesterday, in the Jihad trenches, today they are together in the country's administration trench, or even in the trenches of confrontation with the foreign agents. The two fraternal parties are present here with a large majority. Parties are not divided in Afghanistan in the name of Shi'a and Sunni. Parties came in being on the basis of particular (?characteristics) of each formation. Today the Harakat-e Eslami and Wahdat-e Eslami, in a large number (?have taken part) in order to show that this nation is a united nation, and no one can divide this nation in the name of race, creed, and religion. They are here with a large number of delegates.

Dear brethren, as far as the state is concerned, we have never usurped power and would never allow ourselves or anybody else to govern by tank, artillery, and aircraft. [words indistinct] The nation should not allow a handful of people or parties to determine their faith. The people should determine their faith by themselves. [passage indistinct]

We have never ignored the training of our young generation. Even during Jihad years, we did not neglect this subject. We opened universities and a large number of schools [words indistinct] in territories we newly freed during the period of Jihad. Do we want to close the gate of Kabul University now? Do we want our dear lecturers to become wanderers or to emigrate? Did we want our youths to have nothing to do for two years, or to be deprived from education and learning? Dirty hands, however, created difficulties. I do not want to talk about philosophical and historical issues. [passage omitted] [15 minute break in transmission] [passage indistinct]

Golboddin-Dostam Militia Attack Repulsed

LD2807195994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militias launched an attack last night from the direction of Reshkhor, Qala-e Muslim, and [word indistinct]. This attack was repulsed by brave resistance put up by the Islamic army and mojahedin. The defamed militias were forced to flee after leaving behind dozens of dead and injured men and losing their previous positions.

As a result of a counterattack several positions located in Qala-e Muslim and Sarasiab, and several other positions, were seized by the Islamic army. A large number of weapons and ammunition were taken as booty [words indistinct].

India

German Foreign Minister Carries Out Visit

Press Release Issued

BK2907102994 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1506 GMT 28 Jul 94

["Press Release Dated 28 July 1994"—place and issuing authority not given]

[Text] The German foreign minister, Mr. Klause Kinkel, had a meeting lasting one and a half hours with the external affairs minister on July 28, 1994, morning. There was an in-depth discussion of bilateral, regional and international issues. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the excellent state of bilateral relations. The external affairs minister referred to the very fruitful visit of the prime minister to Germany in February, 1994. Mr. Kinkel conveyed that Germany attaches great importance to developing even closer relations with India on the basis of partnership in the political, economic and cultural fields. He stressed the important position of India in the context of Germany's Asia concept policy and indicated that Germany, which currently holds the European Union [EU] presidency, would also like the EU to place particular importance on developing wide-ranging relations with India as part of the European Union's trust towards Asia. Mr. Kinkel recalled that in terms of the new Indo-EC cooperation agreement, the countries of the European Union would make greatest effort in developing economic relations and supporting India's economic reform program. Mr. Kinkel indicated that the next round of Indo-EU troika talks at the ministerial level would be held early next year.

The external affairs minister briefed Mr. Kinkel on the status of India-Pakistan relations. Mr. Kinkel reaffirmed the German position of support for the resumption of bilateral foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan. The external affairs minister conveyed that the international community and the UN should stand firm against those countries which support cross-border terrorism and promote solutions to all problems only by peaceful, nonviolent means.

Issues related to disarmament and nonproliferation were discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the ongoing bilateral dialogue in these issues. The external affairs minister reiterated India's stand on nondiscriminatory approaches to achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

The question of UNSC expansion came up during the talks. The German foreign minister indicated his country's strong interest in permanent membership of the UNSC and its expectations to be a non- permanent member in 1995-96. The Indian side also expressed interest in permanent membership when the UNSC is expanded to make it more representative.

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During Mr. Kinkel's meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, the finance minister briefed him on the ongoing process of economic liberalization and results achieved and conveyed that we would welcome an enhanced presence of German business and industry in India availing of the opportunities provided by the Indian market for trade and investment.

Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Kinkel jointly addressed the 24-member high-level business delegation that is accompanying Mr. Kinkel. The finance minister urged German business and industry, including small and medium sector industry, to explore more actively prospects for investment in the Indian market, particularly in the areas of power, energy, coal, telecommunications, environment-friendly technologies, modernization of roads and ports and agro- processing. The German business delegation expressed strong interest in increasing investments in various fields, specially in power projects.

Mr. Kinkel and Dr. Manmohan Singh signed a bilateral financial protocol for 1994-95 providing for a total of 460 million deutsche marks in assistance for India.

The home minister briefed Mr. Kinkel on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, our policy of transparency on human rights and efforts to initiate the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined our concerns related to cross-border terrorism, in particular recent induction of foreign mercenaries at a time when the public in Jammu and Kashmir is moving away from externally- sponsored militancy.

Supports Delhi-Islamabad Talks

BK2907005194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Germany has reaffirmed its support for early resumption of foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan. The matter came up for discussion during talks between the visiting German Vice Chancellor and foreign minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi today. Dr. Kinkel, who also had a meeting with the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, welcomed the transparent policy of New Delhi on Kashmir and the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission. The external affairs minister said the international community and the United Nations should take a firm stand against the countries supporting cross-border terrorism. Peaceful solution to all problems should be promoted. On bilateral ties, Dr. Kinkel said Germany attaches great importance to developing closer partnership with India in political, economic, and cultural fields.

The German Vice Chancellor called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan this evening. Dr. Kinkel briefed the president on discussions he had with the Indian leaders.

Earlier, the visiting dignitary called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. He expressed great appreciation for the developments in the economic sphere taking place in India.

Commentary Prefers Foreign Investment to Aid

BK2907092994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Commentary by Anjun Ray]

[Text] India will receive German assistance of 920 crore rupees under an agreement signed yesterday. German assistance to India is nothing new and has been continuing for decades. The funds now available will be utilized for various purposes from import of fertilizers to setting up small irrigation projects in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. This time, the agreement provides for some grants for fighting poverty and protection of natural resources and environment as well. A composite financial cooperation loan is also being offered by the German Development Bank, known as KFW.

No doubt these funds will go a long in meeting specific resource constraints in the segment of the Indian economy. However, with the current trends in the Indian economy and its exact requirements, what is more welcomed than bilateral, or multilateral aid for that matter, is foreign direct investment. It is absolutely essential to attract foreign direct investment, more popularly known nowadays as FDI. In fact, the Government of India has also (?wearing) itself from receiving aid from the developed countries year after year. Experience has shown that it is the private capital flows that can make a distinct difference to the economy of a less developed country. In fact, at the behest of the Indian Government, the Aid India Consortium has been renamed India Development Forum, where a private sector industry and business representatives were invited to hear what India has to offer and what they expect. Earlier, the prime minister had also presented the investment opportunities available in India to a select group of international companies at Davos in Switzerland. These attempts have at least created an impression of India being a thriving economy which is keen to bring in large multinational companies to quicken the growth and development. Indeed, the German minister has been accompanied by a select group of industry representatives from that country who are by their own right some of the biggest players in the present day world economy. Take for instance the executive board members of Siemens, German electronics giant, or the chairman of the executive board of Lufthansa, the German airline. No less than 40 industry leaders who have come with the minister are actively exploring avenues of participating in various segments of the economy. Even if a small proportion of these companies in the end are able to identify and make investments, this could be a major gain.

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Bid To Join ARF Called 'Embarrassing Flop'

BK2807135294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 94 p 14

[Text] Bangkok, July 25—India's bid to get admitted to the newly-launched ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has ended in an embarrassing flop with the region's Foreign Ministers giving it short shrift during their two-day meet here.

While ASEAN officials here said that the issue was not taken up due to 'lack of time' the real reasons seem more to do with the ongoing Kashmir dispute, India's poor relations with neighbouring countries and its declining international image as a Third World power, diplomatic observers said.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that the question of expanding membership of the new regional security organisation did not figure seriously at all during discussion. In response to a question at a Press conference just a day prior to the beginning of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meet the ASEAN chairman and the Thai Foreign Minister Mr Prasong Sunsiri, had confirmed having received an application from the Indian Government for membership to the ARF and said that the matter would be discussed.

The ARF which was formally launched here today, includes the six ASEAN member States—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—their seven dialogue partners, plus observers and consultative partners, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the European Community, Japan and South Korea are ASEAN's dialogue partners.

Industry Delegation Wants More Ventures in China

BK2807134894 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 23 Jul 94 p 5

[Text] A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) mission that recently returned from China has called for creating greater Sino-Indian business linkages.

The 11-member mission, which visited the three major Chinese business centres of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, has observed that Indian industry had an extremely "low profile" in China and that there were also huge "knowledge gaps".

China could be both a market of huge potential and a source for cost-effective and world-class materials, equipment and technologies for India. There is also considerable scope for joint ventures, the mission says.

It says large bottlenecks and unevenness exist in infrastructural areas such as roads and telecom in China, notwithstanding its insistence not to compromise on quality.

The mission, which was led by the Vice-Chairman and Management Director of the Indian Aluminium Company Ltd., Mr. Tapan Mitra, held several buyer-seller meetings in all the three cities. The Indian delegation also had discussions with officials of Chinese export-import corporations and manufacturers of various products.

"The mission has helped in creating an awareness and interest about Indian industry in Chinese corporations," the Chairman said.

The mission has recommended more frequent workshops and exchanges of Sino-Indian trade and industry delegations, besides the formation of a permanent China Desk and China Committee in the CII.

Common People Said Losing Out on Economic Reform

BK2807102194 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 25 Jul 94 p 6

[Article by Lalteshivar Shrivastar: "Why Common People Are Deprived of the Benefits of the New Economic Policy"]

[Text] When thinking about the economic policies, people often forget that the difference between the policies of the countries endowed with natural resources and those who lack them is caused by the need of their circumstances. Besides this factor, the policies of a country are also affected by the country's population and area. All the developed European countries and Japan are dependent on imports for getting required foodgrains, minerals, and raw material for their industries. In fact their whole life-patter and the total economy depend on import. They just cannot do without arranging for exports on a large scale and their eventual expansion. Except for Britain and the United States, all the developed countries depend on imports for required energy. Their need for raw materials, minerals, and crude oil is fulfilled by getting supplies from Asian and African nations, which have abundant natural resources.

Self Dependent Economy: Owing to her large population, the economy of India couldn't have depended on the goods purchased through exports. She had to be self-dependent in getting required goods through only indigenous production. It is quite true that India produces most of the goods she requires. This is the reason our economy is now stable and, to a large extent, self-dependent. This fact is deliberately overlooked by the Western countries to fortify their own interests but why must we, too, neglect it? There has not been much growth in imports. Why? It is because our markets are full of the essential commodities of all varieties and we don't lack anything anywhere. Their quality is not so bad as to generate no demand for them, either. It is true that inferior goods are also produced and sold in the market to the common people of low income. However, the government can bring in the desired improvement and it

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should do so. Despite many stringent laws, the economic crimes are increasing in number.

Under this condition it would be wrong to brand the Indian economy as weak. The truth is that we must manufacture such goods that can withstand better competition, quality-wise as also cost-wise. We have to be more efficient in getting better management, administration, and techniques. "We must export to import required goods from our own income. This is the meaning of self-dependence, in a nutshell. However, ignoring our own capacity and capability and installing industry with foreign collaboration is tantamount to damaging our own base of self- dependence. In the case of electricity generation it is proper and perhaps necessary also to get help from the United States or any other developed country. However, not utilizing the full capacity and potential of our BHEL, NTPC and other public sector units, which are renowned for their expertise and efficiency all over the world, is downright improper and unpardonable. Even our own experts believe that had we utilized the full capacity and potential of our public sector units, we could have easily gotten capital worth billions of dollars and high foreign technology, too. Our renowned units should not be kept away from the new electricity projects."

Ignoring Our Own Capacity: Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, while speaking on the completion of three years of his term and assessing his regime's achievements, asked how he could estrange himself and the country from the Nehruite philosophy and policies. But how could the act of entrusting the development of new capabilities to foreigners instead of utilizing our indigenous capabilities be regarded as an endorsement of Nehru's principles? This opposition is not directed toward procuring foreign collaboration but toward neglecting our own capacity and potential. All the trade contracts with the foreign concerns should be under control of our own industrial units and enterprises, including those for the energy sector. These foreign concerns should only supplement our units' requirement for getting foreign capital and developed technology. Whatever raw materials required for electricity generation—like mineral iron, coal, and water—resources—are available in our country abundantly. We have the technical expertise and necessary machines, too. Still, if any special technology, machines, or foreign currency were needed, the public sector or the government undertaking could have obtained them from abroad through their own efforts. But the government, while discussing the matter with the U.S. concerns, totally disregarded our indigenous units and did not even seek their advice.

The Basis of Rumors: Our country has quite advanced design and engineering skill and the capacity to produce capitalized goods. However, without the growth in demand these cannot be properly utilized. In these sectors, we would have sought foreign collaboration only in a limited way. There is no justification or need to entrust the whole job to foreigners. A few months ago it was widely believed that the government was going to import cow-dung from Western Europe. Now they say that the government is likely to import old newspapers. After all, what lends credence to such rumors? Is the government responsible for spreading them far and wide? It has been launching propaganda that under the New Policy all sorts of imports are permitted. Although to some extent it is correct that the United States is launching a publicity campaign against the use of chemical fertilizers by the developing countries like India, for she believes we should use more cow-dung as manure, yet getting old newspapers has no justification. These newspapers are not of much use in the West while their sale prospects are very bright in India. But is it necessary to import, and confusion starts floating in in the form of rumors that achieve credibility by the government not clarifying the issues. This sort of situation exposes our people to perilous exploitation. It is verily an alarm bell to alert concerned authorities, for this exploitation could lead to a totally avoidable crisis.

Our economy should develop and expand only on the basis of its intrinsic strength and capacity. Exports and foreign collaborations could be used only as the supplement. This would enhance opportunities for employment. Policy aimed at the general welfare of all people should be implemented and not that policy that ensures prosperity of the chosen few. Our country's needs are many, and they should basically be fulfilled by our own efforts and resources. For this there should be emphasis on creating and enhancing our own intrinsic capacity. Take the energy sector, for example. No doubt through a long pipeline gas could be imported from Iran or Oman, but this imported energy can never strengthen the base of our economy. Even from security angles, it is not advisable. India has an abundant quantity of coal. If the coal mines are developed with the latest technology, these could give a spurt in job opportunities, and millions would be employed. The states with coal mines are otherwise quite poor and backward. The expansion and improvement in mining techniques would improve the condition of people there. They would get jobs. China is also accepting foreign help in mining coal.

The Limit of Foreign Collaboration and Association: Together with coal, hydroelectric projects should also the given top priority as these would also provide many job opportunities to the unemployed and herald the prosperity of the region. It must be remembered that India cannot adopt any other country's style of economic growth, although through the GATT Agreement the developed countries are trying to make the developing countries a part of their economic structure. All agree that there was a pressing need to liberate our economy from the clutches of various controls. The economy had to be liberalized, but how could a policy go against the utilization of the built-in-capacity of our country?. Because of Nehru's far-sighted policies our country has the required capacity to produce almost any thing we need. Heavy machinery and plants are produced in our own country. Hence it would be a wrong "open" policy

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to permit the import of heavy machinery and plants. Not many countries have the industrial capacity that India does. What is needed is its complete modernization, and foreign collaboration should be sought to achieve this end. Together with this, more money needs to be spent on research and development. The private sector has negligible funds for R & D. It is the public sector, an organized one that basically takes care of the R & D. If we do not spend liberally in our research and development, we will have to seek foreign help and collaboration or permit our own companies to invest in the form of shares. In that case, keeping proprietary control over their units on the part of the industrialists would turn out to be a difficult proposition.

Expectation from our Industrialists and Entrepreneurs: Indian industrialists must affect a change in their style of working and in their profit-based policies. The New Policy's success rests on this imperative change. The Western countries have become affluent through their industrialists and entrepreneurs' determination, expertise, efficiency, and capacity to stand up to global competition. Despite the political turmoil, Japanese industry is maintaining its supremacy in world trade. In the field of research and development, Japanese industry has no peer. It has made a great contribution to the overall prosperity of Japan. Our industry should also define its national objectives and work devotedly to achieve them. The government is already entrusting industry with almost the total responsibility to improve our economy but, unfortunately, industry is mostly busy chanting out a long list of demands.

If our country is to pass successfully through this new phase of industrialization, our industrial sector must take the initiative. It must formulate its working policy for the country's development and present it to the country. Only then will the country's economic interests be protected and enriched. Now India has already moved on the path of change for progress, and she needs to be strengthened at every step. The industries, together with their management and labor unions, should come forward to make our country strong. The people of the developed countries became affluent and happy only when their nations became prosperous. The benefit of the New Policy has yet to trickle down to the common people. But those who have benefited by it are still longing for more.

Iran

UN Office Statement Protests Christopher Remarks

NC2907055994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The representation office of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations has issued an official statement strongly criticizing remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. policy on Iran. Warren Christopher has accused the Iranian nation of wreaking havoc and has called on U.S. allies to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our correspondent reports on the content of the protest note from the Iranian representation office:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The statement says that yesterday's remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Iran are irresponsible remarks stemming from the continuing U.S. hostility toward Iran. It adds that while there is no proof of Iran's involvement in the Argentine bombing, the U.S. secretary of state condemns Iran under the banner of support for Hizballah.

The office adds: Such stances are baseless. They are irresponsible methods to which the United States is resorting to upset Iran's relations with other countries. This comes within the context of America's blind enmity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Elsewhere the statement adds that identifying the Iranian nation as a terrorizing one shows an aggressive spirit and is an insult against a nation. It is contrary even to the least international practice.

The statement refers to the objective behind the U.S. officials' approach in creating a hostile and poisonous atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran and stresses: Iran's stance on terrorism is very clear. The Islamic Republic of Iran always condemns terrorism in its every form. In exploiting such incidents, the United States speaks of the need to fight terrorism, yet it supports the Israeli terrorists, air raids, abductions, and the massacre of people in the region. [end recording]

Nateq-Nuri Advises Syria To Avoid 'Mousetrap'

LD2807114894 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, (IRNA)—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri advised Syria to "leave inact its past record of struggle against Zionism and not to become part of the game being played by the U.S. in the Middle East."

Interviewed by the daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', printed here Thursday, the speaker referred to the so-called peace talks launched by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his shuttle diplomacy in the region and warned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to "stay away from the Western mousetrap."

Commenting on the recent Jordan-Israeli peace accord, Nateq-Nuri said it was "one sided and will be in the interest of Israel." He added that the accord means "recognition of a usurper regime."

"Those who have signed peace agreements with Israel are irresponsible and have just ignored 40 years of bloody Palestinian struggle," Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nuri noted.

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He further said that Christopher's current trip to the Middle East "was just a maneuver by U.S. Democrats for international and domestic consumption."

KAYHAN on Buenos Aires Explosion, Accusations

NC2807210894 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "It Is Tel Aviv's Terror"]

[Text] There is no sane person in any part of the world and of any caste, color or creed who will sympathize with those who exercise terrorism against civilians. The explosion in Buenos Aires on Monday [18 July] that left at least 36 dead and over 200 injured was unmistakably the consequence of Israeli terror tactics against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. Yet, the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not need to think twice before condemning the uncivilized and inhuman act.

Israeli leader General Yitzhaq Rabin was never expected to be refined, understanding and responsible when he accused Iran on Tuesday of bombing the Jewish charity center in the Argentine capital. The Zionist ruler's language befits himself and his patrons who for more than four decades have shamelessly practiced overt and covert terrorism in and outside the volatile Middle East.

Blaming Iran for violence and revenge attacks against Jews and Zionists in far away places has become standard practice after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The free peoples of the world are aware that on several occasions Iran has been a victim of terrorism. The most recent example of terror against Iran is the June 20 bomb blast at Imam Reza's shrine in Mashhad in which 26 pilgrims were torn too pieces and 170 others injured.

It is apparent that the United States and Israel have once again decided to push through a major disinformation campaign against Islamic Iran. General Rabin is understandably nervous and is facing serious problems within his own camp over the so-called peace process with the Arabs. Many Israeli politicians and radical Jewish organizations have expressed deep reservations about the prime minister's attitude in the ongoing bilateral and multi-lateral negotiations over the future of occupied Palestine.

The U.S., as mediator in the talks, is helplessly trying to impose a compromise deal on the oppressed Palestinians, Lebanese and the Syrian leadership. The bottom line is that the whole process is not moving in the direction planned by Washington and Tel Aviv.

For these reasons, plus their declared animosity against Iran, the administrations in both countries are looking for scapegoats and any opportunity that can shift world public opinion from the unjust peace in the Middle East to "Iran's support for terrorism. [no close quotes, as published]. It is no secret that Iran supports the lofty cause of Palestinians who want to live [on] their home soil with honor and expel the Zionist occupiers. At the same time Israel's in-born culture of terrorism, aggression and brute force is also not hidden from world view.

Criminality and cruelty against progressive masses and governments are among Israel's known strategies. The wholesale havoc Israeli troops create in occupied Palestine and Lebanon almost every day is also not unknown to the world. The Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime has never hesitated to use all available instruments of terror and intimidation against Arab civilians and liberation fighters to eliminate their opposition to the Zionist agenda.

Pointing fingers at Hizballah, Hamas, 'extremist' Palestinian factions or Iran, for violence against Jews within and without occupied Palestine, is not going to ease the problem of international terrorism. The self-appointed guardians of global peace and security should remove the veil from their eyes and minds and look realistically at how Israel goes about killing and destroying at will.

As yet there has been no effective action by the world community to check Tel Aviv's shocking behavior against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. How much respect the Zionists have for human values and global conventions supporting civilians is anybody's guess. Outside its 'borders' Israel, as a matter of policy, functions in the way it sees fit and has never cared for the feelings of sovereign states or law-abiding people. And it should be recalled that Israel always embarks on lawlessness with full U.S. support. Its daily atrocities against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, the forced expulsion and deportation of civilians, the dastardly massacre of over (?90) Palestinian worshipers at the Al-Khalil [Hebron] shrine, the creation of the self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon, killing and indiscriminate air, sea and land attacks on civilian sectors help breed deep anti-Israeli sentiments around the world.

Having condemned any and all actions of unprovoked violence against all civilians, Iranians have never been reluctant to stand up for justice and confront oppressors.

And as for dealing with terror and the potential threat to world peace and security, the free countries of the world should start from Tel Aviv. Once Israel is tamed we will no longer have to witness tragic incidents in which innocent people pay for the criminal actions of their governments. Looking back, it is disturbing to see how little has been done to reverse Israeli lawlessness.

Campaign of Western Media, 'Zionists' Alleged

LD2807194694 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Western media in coordination with the Zionist regime's intelligence (Mossad) have staged a new wave of propaganda to incriminate Iran in bombing a Jewish center in Argentina.

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The arrest of two Iranians immediately after the explosion has taken place without any evidence that could stand the acid test of any impartial court and the concerted operation of western media in reflecting the Zionist regime's intelligence sources has become a matter of some concern.

The Zionist bias towards Iran came into light when just minutes after the bomb blast while the exact extent of the event was not clear, the Zionist regime's prime minister tried to implicate Iran.

An observer said that the Zionist regime levelled the baseless accusation against Iran for several objectives, the important incentive of the Zionists was to pave the way for further aggression upon the resistance forces in Southern Lebanon as well as incitement of the world public opinion against Iran.

He said that the Zionist regime justifies this incrimination in light of constant rejection of the so-called Middle East peace process by Iran and the resistance groups in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, an unidentified source quoted by the Associated Press (AP) as saying that in the wake of the explosions, Israel will not limit its attacks on Hizbollah in Lebanon and will also plan to deal blows to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

A researcher on the Middle East affairs at Tehran University said that all indications support the idea that the bombing has been planned by some circles inside the Zionist regime.

He said that the Zionist regime's incentive in bombing could be to divert the public opinion of the world from the so-called Middle East peace process, systematic oppressions, kidnapping in the occupied lands and southern Lebanon and continuation of its suppression of the resistance movements.

He concluded that if impartial observers examined the developments in London and Buenos Aires, they could see the Zionist regimes' hand in bombing the Jewish centers.

Commentary Blames Israel for Recent Explosions

LD2807120494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Our first commentary is about the Zionist regime and the explosions. Once again the Zionist regime is trying to place at the top of the priority list of the big international powers the confrontation against Islam and the ever-expanding Islamic movement on a worldwide scale.

While the occupying regime attempts to open the gates of the Arab world to a wave of regional and international Zionism, the rulers of that regime have realized that only Islamic power and its well- motivated focal point—that is, Islamic Iran—could withstand the move to make the region Zionist, and defeat the project to create a new Middle East, rotating around the Zionist regime as its focal point. That is why the efforts of the terrorist rulers of Israel are concentrated on placing at the top of the priority list and on the strategic agenda of Western countries the confrontation with Islam, Islamic movements, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in any way possible. This is so that with the West's political and military support Israel can fight Islam, and implement the project to make the region Zionist with their help.

The Zionist regime has discovered the best method to mobilize the big Western powers, utilize the services of their propaganda machinery, and influence public opinion in the use of frightening and sympathy-arousing methods. That is the basis of the recent explosions at the Zionist centers in Argentina and Britain.

Naturally, if those explosions had occurred inside occupied Palestine they could not have brought such results for the Zionist regime or mobilize the big powers and their propaganda machinery on its behalf. On the contrary, the people of the world would have come down on the side of the Palestinians. Therefore, the interests of the Zionist regime have depended on the fact that those explosions should occur outside the occupied lands.

For that reason, the principle decisionmakers of those explosions, with a well-calculated and systematic plan, set off a series of explosions outside the occupied lands and gradually brought them closer from a distance that is less suspicious to the heart of Europe, and will probably spread them to other European capitals, so that they can make the most of the explosions against Islam, Islamic movements, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Visit of Turkey's Demirel Viewed

NC2907105694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 25 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Iran and Turkey: Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] Turkish President Suleyman Demirel is to arrive in the Islamic Republic of Iran on an official visit at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation. In the years following the end of the imposed war, this is the first visit by a Turkish president to Iran.

Political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey—as two influential and powerful countries—have experienced many ups and downs since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

During the years of the Iraqi imposed war on Iran, the Turkish Government was very expertly able to remain impartial in the conflict between the two powerful neighbors. It was able to make the best use of the economic possibilities that arose during the eight years of war and to put its economy, which had been plunged into chaos because of the incidents in the seventies, into order by setting up a bridge for provisions both to Iran and Iraq.

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Meanwhile, the military coup in 1980 and the fact that the coming to power of a strong military government was concurrent with the commencement of Iraq's war against Iran helped toward this situation as well.

Whereas until 1360 [year beginning 21 March 1981] Turkey did not enjoy any special place among Iran's trade partners, from 1361 onwards it suddenly ranked third after West Germany and Japan and its exports to Iran rose to $935 billion in comparison with only $340,000 of imports from our country. During the following years, Turkey was continually among the five major countries that exported to Iran in return for minimal imports; and between the years 1361 and 1370 [1982-1991], it exported a total of $7.8 billion in goods and services to our country.

Nevertheless, unfortunately the same logic that prevailed in economic exchanges did not prevail in the bilateral political developments between the two countries, and this was the reason for the mostly unfavorable fluctuations in Iranian-Turkish relations, especially after the end of the imposed war. In recent years, at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran had generously opened up its borders to Turkish products, unfortunately some concoctions inculcated by extreme rightist circles in the region influenced that fraternal country through foreign pressures to become a haven for anti-Iranian groups that the world does not doubt have a terrorist nature.

Fortunately, recently through agreements and regular bilateral talks, Tehran and Ankara have reached a principled agreement on preventing any type of terrorist activities against each other on their territories and it is hoped that the Turkish Government will remain faithful to its security commitments toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and will also end the imbalance in bilateral economic and political relations.

The truth is that even though Turkey has chosen its path of moving toward the West, as stated by the late president of that country during the last months of his life, because of its social fabric and its rich eastern-Islamic culture, Turkey cannot completely ignore the regional geopolitical exigencies and the Islamic cultural needs of the Muslims. Thus, one might say that these cultural and geopolitical exigencies have linked the fate of the regional cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—with the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Iraq. What no wise politician in Ankara can deny is the need to take Tehran's legitimate security interests in the said region as well as the need to maintain the tranquility and stability of international borders, especially in northern Iraq, by safeguarding Turkey's territorial integrity in the considerations. All these are preconditions that no one in Tehran considers arguable and the officials in Turkey definitely agree with Tehran. In the dawn of the era of concordance, the future of the Third World lies in showing preference for regional interests over the intentions of statesmen overseas.

Editorial Examines Relations With Turkey

NC2807163694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Rafsanjani-Demirel: Promoting Bilateral and Regional Peace and Prosperity"]

[Text] Turkish President, Suleyman Demirel, yesterday received a red carpet welcome in Tehran by his host President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and senior Iranian officials and Tehran-based foreign diplomats.

Iran and Turkey, the region's oldest and most powerful countries, can rightly boast of enjoying cordial relations, despite several obstacles in the way of their mutual cooperation.

The two nations' positive and practical approach to bilateral relations has always helped Tehran and Ankara to resolve their differences at the negotiating table.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and the so-called Mojahedin, both terrorist organizations, are part of the problems faced by Turkey and its neighbor Iran. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently called for decisive measures to be taken to stop the activities of all suspicious elements on the Iran-Turkish border.

The Iranian president has always believed that the 1993 agreement reached by two countries for closer cooperation in controlling their common border areas, would benefit the region, and will contribute to global stability.

Turkey has also committed itself to act against the terrorist Mojahedin, and as the Iranian Ambassador to Ankara Mohammed Reza Baqeri told the TEHRAN TIMES, there are only a handful of the members of this deviated group are left in Turkey. Baqeri added that great numbers of the disillusioned Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term used for Mojahedin-e Khalq organization] have repented and returned home.

Iran and Turkey pay a great deal of attention to the Balkans and Caucasus regions. Turkish Ambassador to Tehran, Nehat Balkan, was quite right when he told the TEHRAN TIMES recently that the Iranian and Turkish stands on Bosnia should be the model for all other Islamic countries.

Both countries tried their best to resolve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis. They also extended their good offices in efforts to solve the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

President Demirel's current visit to Tehran is important in terms of economic cooperation between the two countries. There are a great number of areas which should be explored by the two sides for the expansion of their economic cooperation to increase the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey. Just a few years ago, mutual trade between the two nations amounted to over $2 billion. Currently, the figure stands at under $1 billion.

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Both countries should note that there are certain hidden hands which fan the flames of discord between Tehran and Ankara. In our recent trip to Turkey we realized that the Turkish people and officials understand and appreciate the importance of good neighborly relations with the Islamic Republic.

We hope that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Demirel will agree on broader cooperation between Tehran and Ankara which will benefit the people of Iran and Turkey, and will promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

U.S. Activity To Maintain Iraq Embargo Viewed

NC2807211394 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Ending the UN Embargo Against Baghdad"]

[Text] Iraq is trying once again to get the United Nations to lift its embargo which has economically devastated that country. Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq 'Aziz, has just completed a meeting with the Greek Foreign Minister, Karolos Papoulias, in Athens, during which he tried to convince him to intervene on behalf of Iraq in the European Community (EU).

'Aziz insisted that his country has fully abided by all UN requirements for ending the embargo, and said that Iraq is willing to review and correct the implementation of any and all UN resolutions regarding the embargo to the satisfaction of the world body.

Iraq has also started a dialogue with Turkey centering on the same subject. Ankara has been losing a great deal of revenue as a result of the embargo which stopped the flow of Iraqi oil carried by the pipeline running through Turkish territory. A Turkish high level delegation recently visited Baghdad to discuss Turkish government views on ending the embargo. This Turkish initiative, is rooted in Ankara's monetary losses, but is nevertheless in the national interest of the Turks, and has raised the ire of the United States.

The U.S. objects to any country acting in its own national interest, unless Washington pre-approves the action. As soon as Ankara announced its intention to send a delegation to Iraq, the usual human rights campaigners began chastising the Turkish government for its "inhumane policies."

Promoting and protecting the concept of human rights is an admirable policy, but this lofty ideal has become a cheap political tool used by the West to intimidate other nations.

Along with the United States, Saudi Arabia also favors keeping the embargo intact, fearing that Baghdad may once again rebuild its army and pose a threat to the Saudi regime. Kuwait, for obvious reasons, is also vehemently against the lifting of the Iraqi embargo.

Washington, in its infinite wisdom, has reportedly come up with a solution which will keep the embargo intact, compensate Turkey for its revenue losses, and keep the precious Saudis and Kuwaitis safe from Iraq, without spending a penny of U.S. taxpayers' money. Uncle Sam's suggestion is that Saudi Arabia nullifies Ankara by footing the bill for Turkish revenue losses.

If the Saudi rulers plead poverty, the next U.S. suggestion would be greater oil production volume, which is what the U.S. wanted in the first place. A truly win win proposition from, and for, Uncle Sam.

Central Bank Governor on Need for Independence

NC2907100194 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by Central Bank Governor Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli: "The Central Bank's Independence"]

[Text] With the intensification of economic activities and the increase in investment in the country, the issue of the Central Bank's independence should be examined together with other economic reforms, and some measures for this should be considered. The Central Bank has the power to generate money and this power should be used in the best way possible. It should be immune from various pressures so that it can be used for the development and flourishing of the economy.

The first question that rises is: What is independence, and independence from what?

A central bank's independence means that its vital responsibilities should be made in proportion with its authorities. The most important duty of a central bank is the preservation of the value of money; and in order to do this a central bank should have the necessary power and authority as well as the instruments needed to safeguard the power to purchase money. In other words, a central bank should think and plan solely on the basis of economic considerations and on the basis of how the value of money can be preserved, how money can be generated, and how money can be circulated in society.

In all the countries of the world where economic reforms are taking place, the intention is to keep monetary policies away from political and short-term considerations while maintaining monetary order and discipline and to grant monetary policies the opportunity to use the necessary instruments toward this end. Today the independence of central banks is an integral part of accepted economic principles in developed and developing countries.

First of all, the composition of a policy-making council for monetary and credit affairs is among the most important criterion for independence. The members of a monetary and credit policy-making council that is assigned the duty of formulating policies for the division of bank credits should not be chosen from among the

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consumers, because in this case, instead of dividing the credits on the basis of economic observations, they may do so on the basis of other criteria and divide credits among themselves. The composition of a monetary and credit council in most countries of the world shows that its members are usually economic and monetary experts and that these councils have no more than five to seven members. These members are usually not affiliated with any specific institution or sector and make decisions solely on the basis of economic observations.

Second, since monetary policies should be adopted by taking into consideration the stability of prices and the long-term preservation of the value of money while financial policies are short-term, monetary policies should be independent of budget and financial policies. A monetary policy should not follow in the footsteps of a financial policy. Of course, this does not mean the non-coordination of monetary and financial policies but means that long-term observations and the maintenance of the value of money should not be sacrificed for short-term budget observations. In other words, if budget incomes are not sufficient for state expenditures, monetary policies should not be unconditionally and haphazardly used to improve the structure of state incomes and to make up for budget deficits. Although monetary policies should be formulated within the framework of the country's medium-term and long-term economic programs and be a device that facilitates economic dynamism in achieving long-term targets, the unconditional domination of the monetary policy will definitely have destructive affects.

The third issue is the position of the management of the Central Bank. Generally speaking, in the various countries of the world, the appointment of the central bank management is based on considerations that include whether this management is capable of acting appropriately in unusual expectations by money and credit consumers. To put it more clearly, a central bank management cannot consist of a group of consumers who are confronted once expectations are expressed. In most countries, the highest executive official of the country is directly in charge of selecting the central bank's management.

Economists have weighed the above three issues very carefully and have compiled formulae that are used to compute the ratio between a central bank's independence and growth rate, inflation, and unemployment. The outcome of these studies shows that those central banks that enjoy more independence have been able to offer more help toward economic stability and controlling inflation, in bringing about more growth, and in decreasing unemployment.

The meaning of central bank independence has not been very well understood in our country yet, and probably the thing that initially comes to the minds of some when this issue is propounded is that this independence means independence from the government or the Majles or avoiding responsibilities. For this reason it may take some time for this issue to be understood well. But, at any rate, it is something that should be examined and a decision made as soon as possible.

It seems that the compilation of the Second Plan for economic, social, and cultural development is a suitable starting point for deliberations on this issue. Definitely this step by the esteemed Majles will be listed in the history of the country's economic successes.

Khark Oil Terminal To Boost Loading Capacity

NC2707202394 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, 27 Jul (AFP)—Iran's Khark Island oil terminal is to raise its loading capacity from 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to eight million within the next two months, oil ministry officials said.

The terminal, from where 97 percent of Iranian crude oil is shipped abroad, suffered great damage during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

French company ETPM was commissioned in late 1991 to start work on repairing the terminal's facilities, and the second stage of work was completed at the end of April.

Since the end of the war, the terminal has only been able to load nearly 2.5 million bpd. Before the 1979 Islamic revolution it loaded up to 14 million bpd of oil for exports.

The island, in the northern Gulf, allows Iran to stock around 13.5 million bpd of crude oil. The capacity should reach 15.5 million bpd by 1995, according to official estimates.

Iran produces around four million bpd of crude oil, of which 2.7 million is exported.

* KEYHAN's Exclusive Report on Mashhad Bombing

94LA0215A London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jul 94 pp 1-2

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tehran-Mashhad. While so far the official reports of the Islamic Republic concerning the bomb explosion in the shrine of Imam Reza have been that the Mojahedin organization was the perpetrator of this explosion, Ahmad Jannati, an extremist member of the Council of Guardians and the temporary Friday imam of Tehran, dragged Israel into it. Nevertheless, as KEYHAN emphasized in its previous issue, that according to reliable sources the perpetrators of the explosion were supported by other governments, now there is no doubt that the Sahabeh Army is the main suspect in this regard.

The Sahabeh Army is an ultra-extremist Sunni group, which strongly opposes not only the regime of the Islamic Republic, but also Shiism itself. Between this

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group and the Hezbollah that support the Islamic Republic, there are always disputes, some of which involve weapons. The Islamic Republic is pressuring Pakistan to ban this group, but the above-mentioned group is not only strengthened by Saudi Arabia but also has a great deal of influence and support among the Sunnis in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Sahabeh Army had recently made several threats to drag the war against the Shiite government of the Islamic Republic into Iran.

In a meeting with Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, during a visit to Pakistan in the middle of last week, the deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic asked her to stop the activities of the Sahabeh Army in any manner at any price. He said: "The head minister of Punjab Province, who is a member of your party, has relations with the Sahabeh Army, and his reaction to Shiites is unethical." (See our separate report on this issue: "Shiites Are Insulted in Pakistan") [not reproduced]

The Sahabeh Army had threatened that in retaliation for the explosion of the Sunni mosque in Mashhad, which ended in the bloody demonstrations in Zahedan, it would damage sacred Shiite buildings.

KEYHAN sources from Tehran report that the security officials of the Islamic Republic expected the terrorist threats to be carried out during the "10 days of Fajr" and in the shrine of Khomeyni. But, for whatever reasons, they did so in Mashhad and the shrine of Imam Reza on the day of 'Ashura.

Informed sources in Mashhad report that while trying to divert attention from the Sahabeh Army, the government wants to pretend that the explosion in the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad was not as great and terrifying as it is thought. But estimates closer to the truth indicated that about 200 were killed and 1,700 injured. The hospitals of Mashhad and surrounding cities are filled with the injured.

According to a report from informed sources in Mashhad, although the number of direct victims of the bomb explosion was about what was announced earlier, most of those killed were children, old people, and pregnant women who were trampled to death or injured under the feet of people rushing to escape from the shrine. On the day of 'Ashura, the shrine of his holiness Reza becomes so crowded that you cannot drop a needle. Instances of death from suffocation, especially among children and old people, have been reported.

Severe Control

Immediately after the incident and after the people went out and those killed and wounded were transferred, upon the order of the government, the entry doors to the shrine were closed and in two days of working round-the-clock workers eliminated all signs of the explosion and destruction, and the doors of the shrine were once again opened to the pilgrims. But since the explosion, traffic to the shrine of Imam Reza and the roads to Shiite sacred places, especially the shrine of Ma'sumeh in Qom, have been under strict surveillance and this is in addition to earnest body searches, which are carried out upon entry to these places.

Also, the Shah Cheragh Mosque in Shiraz and the shrine of his holiness 'Abdol-'Azim in Shahr-e Rey are under surveillance, and traffic to them is strictly controlled.

Insistence on the Responsibility of the People's Mojahedin

In the meantime, the insistence of the government on presenting the People's Mojahedin organization as the perpetrator of the bombing continues. An informed source told KEYHAN: The insistence of the government in this regard is mainly because it does not want the idea to take root in public opinion that the faulty policies of the government have escalated the Sunni-Shiite quarrels, because this would be considered a factor in the instability of the Islamic Republic, whereas blaming the Mojahedin is a common method in the Islamic Republic.

In the meantime, a person by the name of Bahram 'Abbasizadeh, who introduced himself as a member of the People's Mojahedin, appeared on Islamic Republic television and said that upon the order of the organization he wanted to bomb the Sunni mosque in Zahedan when he was arrested and jailed. He said that the bombing in Mashhad was the work of a person by the name of Mehdi Nahvi. According to the intelligence officials of the Islamic Republic, Bahram 'Abbasizadeh has provided them with "very valuable information" about the bombing.

While Ahmad Jannati considered Iraq as responsible for the bombing of the shrine of Imam Reza for having provided resources to the Mojahedin, the Government of Iraq, in a communique, considers any sort of accusation as baseless.

On the other hand, Emami-Kashani, in the Friday prayer sermon in Tehran, accusing the People's Mojahedin organization, said: The planning for this bombing was the responsibility of "the United States and global oppressors." A member of the religious jurists of the Council of Guardians, he said that the entire Islamic world must "consider it a religious duty" to condemn the crime.

* Seminar in Cairo on Relations With Egypt

94LA0215B London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jul 94 p 1

[All quotation marks, ellipses as published]

[Text] In late June, a seminar was held in Cairo about which there was near silence in Tehran. SALAM newspaper, the only newspaper reporting on it, on its first page did not write what institution had initiated this

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seminar and what person or persons from Iran participated. It only wrote that Hasanin Heykal was one of the main speakers of the seminar.

Heykal, the distinguished Egyptian journalist, mentioned Iran and Egypt as two vitally important countries in the region, one of which is in the Persian Gulf and the other in the Mediterranean. He said: It is a strategic requirement that Egypt and Iran have normal to friendly relations, and the fact that Egypt has recognized Israel should not create an obstacle to this.

In his opinion, Iran is an important country that cannot be ignored in any strategic and political calculations concerning the region. Nevertheless, the Egyptian journalist pointed out that even though Islam as a religion "has a place in the hearts of the majority of the people in the region," it lacks a "convincing political-economic program." Heykal, who spoke during the same opportunity with the ETTELA'AT representative, who had gone to Cairo for this seminar, added: "Political Islam has not to date been able to offer an alternative program, a program that is convincing, on the basis of which a country can be operated and reach the desired goals, ideals, and loftier interests."

Hasanin Heykal emphasized: "Until today, in Egypt Islam has not been able to offer a clear picture of social support vis-a-vis the new conditions and new equipment at the threshold of the 21st century.... We speak of Islamic economy, but are obliged and bound by the recommendations of the World Bank and the IMF.... In the meantime, where is the place of Islamic economy or economic Islam? No one knows."

Political observers in Iran mention two major reasons for not reporting on this seminar in the media: First, the seminar did not have the results the Islamic Republic wanted, and the second reason, which is closely tied to the first, is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not want to reveal a new weak point for the attacks by the extremist presses, such as KEYHAN and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

* KEYHAN Publishing Head Replaced

94LA0215C London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] **The head of the KEYHAN establishment, Mehdi Nasiri, stepped down bravely.**

Mehdi Nasiri, the controversial director of KEYHAN, stepped down from his position, leaving his responsibility to Hoseyn Shari'atmadari, the head of the KEYHAN establishment.

Because of accusations he made in recent years against writers, artists, university professors, and even a group of officials of the Islamic Republic, he was summoned before the courts frequently.

The open opposition of KEYHAN to any sort of progress and construction in economic, artistic, and literary areas and insistance on implementing extremist Islam in society as well as continuous criticism of Rafsanjani and his colleagues caused a drop in KEYHAN sales, especially among the educated and the intellectuals in society.

Shari'atmadari, the head of KEYHAN and Khamene'i's representative, called Nasiri's resignation a brave act. In his letter to Shari'atmadari, Mehdi Nasiri called unity in the management of KEYHAN (supervision of the establishment and the management of the newspaper by one person) an effective factor in advancing the rapid affairs of KEYHAN and has asked for the legal stages of this transfer to take place. Mehdi Nasiri has been the manager of KEYHAN in Tehran since 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] and, according to the same newspaper, during this period he fought cultural invasion.

It is said that several months after the appointment of Shari'atmadari as the supervisor of the KEYHAN establishment, differences of opinion between the two emerged. The discontent of Rafsanjani and his ministers also concerning the KEYHAN establishment, which became quite open in Rafsanjani's recent major press conference, has played no small part in the dismissal of Nasiri.

* Changes at KEYHAN Publishing, Elsewhere

94LA0215D London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] In Tehran rumor has it that one of the reasons for changing the head of KEYHAN (published in Tehran) was the increasing disgust towards this newspaper not only among intellectuals but also among ordinary readers. One writer said: They read the other newspapers to see what is happening and read KEYHAN to see "who has been raked over the coals this time."

It had reached the point that a number of writers and artists wanted to boycott the newspaper through issuing a communique but did not do so for understandable reasons, and word of mouth alone was enough to keep people from buying KEYHAN. Indeed, this method was effective, and for the first time in the past two or three decades the sales of this newspaper dropped below the other two or three daily papers.

Entrusting some of the press propaganda affairs abroad to ETTELA'AT, despite the existence of the weekly KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, was another blow that caused the supervisor of KEYHAN to see the solution in the dismissal of its manager. Some observers in Tehran believe that the change in management will not be limited to the daily KEYHAN but will include other publications of the establishment, especially KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, which, in fabricating cases against people and insults, does not fall short of the daily KEYHAN and in fact follows it.

* Center for Making Satellite Antennae Closes

94LA0215F London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 5

[Text] A center for the production of satellite antennae, which has manufactured 50,000 antennae so far in

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Reza'iyyeh, Urmia, was shut down. The Guard Corps of Reza'iyyeh announced that 18 people who worked in this factory have been arrested. The people of Urmia have told reporters: The guards have always known of the existence of this large antenna manufacturing organization and so far had raided the smaller satellite antenna manufacturing factories in Urmia twice, but this time, for reasons that remain unclear, they shut it down.

The officials of the Islamic Republic have frequently announced that there is no law in Iran prohibiting the production, distribution, and use of satellite antennae, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani also has said in his recent press conference to foreign reporters that until the Majles has made a decision about this matter, the use of satellite antennae is legal.

* Numerous Foreign Companies Closed

94LA0215G London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] The chaos with regard to the situation of foreign currency and the continuous change of foreign currency regulations by the Central Bank has caused the closure of many foreign and Iranian companies in Iran. A Tehran merchant in contact with KEYHAN published in London said: The chaotic situation of foreign currency and the refusal of foreign banks to open lines of credit (LC) have caused the closure of many agencies of foreign companies in Iran. Several foreign companies last week warned their employees to think about finding another job, because any moment the company may dissolve. The closure of large companies has resulted in the increase in the number of unemployed, and with the existing intolerably high prices, the worries of the unemployed have multiplied. This merchant said: The price of a small pail of yogurt has reached 500 tumans, and the price of fruit is so high that the lower and middle classes cannot afford it. According to this merchant, despite such sad conditions, the government daily shouts slogans that the economic situation is improving. It is not clear on what basis it makes this claim.

Pakistan

U.S. Asked To Stop Indian Missile Program

BK2807154294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has expressed his deep concern on the missile development program of India and has termed it a great threat not only to Pakistan, but the whole region. Talking to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Joseph P. Hoar, who called on him this morning, the president said that the U.S. must exercise its influence to stop India from manufacturing long-range missiles. Otherwise, all the countries in the region would be compelled to review the whole range of the security system. The president said that instead of forcing the neighboring countries into a mad arms race, which would be certainly at the expense of the economic betterment of the people on either side, India should try to adopt a positive attitude toward the issues like Kashmir and nuclear proliferation. Referring to Kashmir, president Leghari said that the stubborn attitude of the Indian Government and inhuman acts of the Indian troops have left the Kashmiri people with no option but to fight for their right to self-determination. The president emphasized this is the revolt absolutely internal and indigenous and pointing fingers at Pakistan would in no way help India sidetrack the real issue involved.

General Hoar said that Pakistan and the United States could be good friends as both sides are sincerely struggling to remove the irritants in Pak-U.S. relations. General Hoar also appreciated Pakistan's role in various peace-keeping missions in different parts of the world. He said that his country was especially grateful for Pakistan's support in Somalia.

Official Says U.S. Policy on Kashmir Unchanged

BK2907032794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] The United States has assured Pakistan that there has been no change in its policy on Kashmir and that the issue was raised during Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's recent visit to the United States. This was stated by Professor N.D. Khan, parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, in Islamabad today. He said that according to the information Pakistan has, there has been no change in the U.S. policy on the Kashmir dispute.

Answering a point in the allegations made by Syeda Abida Hussain, Pakistan's former ambassador to the United States and leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, relating to the president's U.S. visit, Professor N.D. Khan said she should have confirmed the fact before making allegations against the president. He said the president's U.S. visit has been successful. The president not only highlighted Pakistan's viewpoint on national issues, but also provided information on the country's conducive atmosphere to foreign investment.

Japan To Provide Aid for Development Projects

BK2807135094 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jul 94 pp 1,14

[Text] Islamabad, July 20: Japan has decided to offer Rs [rupees] 1.3 billion for undertaking six major development projects in the country.

The Japanese grant-aid to Pakistan of Rs 1.3 billion (4.2 billion yen) will be offered under six separate agreements, signed here on Wednesday [20 July] by Japanese Ambassador Mr Kunio Muraoka and Secretary Economic Affairs and Statistical Division Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan.

The grant assistance would cover five development projects in the fields of communication, primary education, primary health, teacher training and irrigation.

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These projects when completed, will contribute to the economic uplift and social welfare of the people. In addition to these projects, a debt relief grant to be utilised for the balance of payments support, has also been extended today by the Japanese Government.

According to the details, Japan will provide Rs 167 million for the construction of another bridge in Chitral, NWFP, required for the development of a modern network in the province. Japan has already provided a little over Rs.2 billion under which ten bridges were being presently constructed across rivers in the NWFP province.

The second project would be started for improving primary education in NWFP at a cost of Rs 447 million. The project included the construction of 30 primary schools during the next three years.

An amount of Rs 270 million would be offered to the NWFP Government for the establishment of a teacher training college for women in Abbotabad which would train lady teachers in implementation of modern instrumental practices for student-teacher.

Under another agreement, Japan would provide Rs 283 million for the improvement and development of basic health system in rural areas of NWFP. The provincial government has already constructed buildings for Basic Health Units (BHUs) and Rural Health Centres (RHCs) in all over the province with its own resources. The Japanese grant assistance would be used for procuring medical equipment required for effective operation of these BHUs and RHCs.

Moreover, an additional grant of Rs 144 million would be made available by Japan to the Punja Government for Watershed Management and Irrigation Development in Mithawan, near D G Khan. Earlier the provincial government had also received about Rs 160 million. The objective of the project is to control and utilisation of flood waters in the Mithawan Hill Torrent area for irrigation, through watershed management and construction of flood dispersion facilities.

Under the six agreements signed on Wednesday, the Government of Japan would extend a debt relief grant of Rs 34 million. Such debt relief grants are extended as a means of re-financing the payment obligations of Pakistan under Japanese loan agreements concluded between 1972 and 1978.

This amount would be used as a balance of payments support for purchasing commodities mutually agreed between the two Governments.

Government To Buy Antitank Ammo From Ukraine

BK2807125394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad: Pakistan is to buy from Ukraine anti-tank High Explosive (HE) ammunition to bolster its defences.

A contract to this effect has been signed between the two countries.

Confirming this to THE NEWS, defence sources say the deal symbolises a major breakthrough in the country's efforts to diversify its sources of defence purchases. They said that a letter of Credit in favour of Kiev had already been opened for the supply of HE which would cost US $ 14 million.

This is the first contract pertaining to defence purchases entered into by Pakistan with any of the independent states of the former Soviet Union, which are offering several items of defence for integration into Pakistan's armed forces.

This is the second contract signed by Pakistan during the last two months. The first one, which was also meant to acquire the capability of destroying enemy tanks, was awarded to China for 125 mm Armour-Piercing Fins-Stabilised Discarding Sabot (APFSDS).

According to the sources, the total cost of this anti-tank APFSDS will be about US $77 million. The contract stipulates transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan under which raw material for this sensitive ammunition would be supplied by China and the manufacture of APFSDS would be undertaken in Pakistan.

Military experts say, both the antitank weapons—Ukrainian HE and the Chinese APFSDS—will be used in the Chinese T-85 and the indigenously manufactured Al-Khalid tanks. They said, only three other countries possessed this ammunition of high technology. This technology, which will considerably multiply Pakistan Army's striking capability, will remain effective for a long time to come, according to experts.

Government Accused of 'Policy of Appeasing India'

BK2907052894 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 28 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Activities of 'Foreign Agents,' Benazir's Government's Attitude, and the Opposition Leader's Concern"]

[Text] Nine people were killed in several more incidents of terrorism in Karachi. The terrorists kidnapped a petty military officer and a lance corporal of a secret agency and then killed the former and seriously wounded his companion. Two mobile police vans were also fired upon in which four constables were injured. A high-level meeting in Karachi yesterday, with the prime minister in the chair, reviewed the law and order situation in Karachi and in the country and made some important decisions.

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The law and order situation in the country during the past two weeks has been very serious. Apart from Sindh, incidents have also occurred in Punjab, thereby aggravating the people's sense of insecurity and distress and their dissatisfaction with the government. The prime minister has been staying in Karachi for the last few days, reviewing the situation at several high-level meetings. The other day she expressed the apprehension that foreign forces might be involved in the serious incidents that occurred in Karachi during the last few days in which several people were killed.

Talking to a delegation of religious scholars in Islamabad on 26 July, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari also expressed the fear that foreign forces are behind the sectarian tension currently prevailing in the country. The president even said that "enemy agents have infiltrated the ranks of religious scholars and saints," because no Muslim can attack the mosques and shrines. The president told the religious scholars to play their roles in changing the situation and creating sectarian harmony.

The president and the prime minister have referred to the "foreign hand" in the serious sectarian incidents and terrorist activities and expressed grave concern about them. We fully share the president and prime minister's concern, and we have no hesitation in acknowledging that there might be "foreign hands" in these incidents. However, with utmost respect we would like to request that the president and prime minister find out which country is behind the "foreign hands" in these incidents.

Viewed in the contemporary global context, Pakistan has no enemy in the South Asian region except India. As a superpower, the Soviet Union has ceased to exist. Pakistan's contribution to the disintegration of the Soviet Union was substantial. The prime minister might not acknowledge it, because this good work was performed during the regime of President Ziaul Haq, and anything done during that period will not be liked by the Pakistan People's Party even if it was done to protect the country's security. What we mean to say is that the present Russian Government now has no interest in carrying out sabotage activities in Pakistan. Our government has already bowed to the U.S. Government. Therefore, the Government of the United States does not need to resort to such steps to exert pressure on Pakistan. China is Pakistan's best friend. Pakistan also maintains good relations with other regional countries. India is the only country, which, for more than one reason—the freedom struggle in Kashmir tops them all—might carry out subversion and terrorism in Pakistan, and it is indeed doing so.

But what is our attitude toward India? Our government withdrew the "Kashmir Resolution" at the UN General Assembly in the hope that India would hold talks on the Kashmir issue. At the Geneva Human Rights Commission meeting, the Kashmir resolution was "deferred"—although this deferment was tantamount to a humiliating withdrawal—because friendly countries had assured us of a change in India's attitude toward Kashmir. However, India did not hold any purposeful talks on the Kashmir dispute, nor was there a change in its behavior in occupied Kashmir. Despite all this, our government is still persistently pursuing the "policy of appeasing" India.

Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has acknowledged that she helped Rajiv Gandhi against the Sikhs during the tenure of her first government. Now, during her current tenure in office, she helped India twice to overcome the "trouble." Now trade facilities have been given to India that will definitely benefit the Indian economy.

Opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, in a statement in Islamabad the other day, said that India has been given a number of concessions under the present government's new trade policy. He said that the Islamic Conference Organization had adopted a resolution on imposing economic sanctions against India, but it was opposed by the Benazir government. He said Islamic countries now feel that Pakistan is not interested in giving the Kashmiris their right to self-determination or resolving the dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

India is Pakistan's eternal enemy. It has deployed more than 700,000 troops in occupied Kashmir. It is a carrying out a genocide against Kashmiris only because they believe in Islam and refuse to become India's slaves and because they chant slogans of long live Pakistan. By deploying Prithvi missiles along our borders, India poses a great danger to our security and defense. The notorious agency, India's "Research and Analysis Wing" is engaged in subversive activities in Sindh. Attempts are also being made in Punjab to create a Sindh-like situation to involve the country's gallant and patriotic armed forces in maintaining "law and order" in this province, too. However, our government does not miss any chance to provide "a facility" to the Indian authorities.

We believe that the country's patriotic and intellectual circles also share the apprehension expressed by the opposition leader about India. They cannot help but express concern over the government's attitude and its policy toward India. We would like to request that Ms. Benazir Bhutto not aggravate the people's frustration and dissatisfaction by pursuing the policy of political confrontation, taking unconstitutional steps in the North-West Frontier Province, attempting to destabilize the elected government in Balochistan, and above all, pursuing the policy of appeasing India. She should change her government's "attitude of friendship with India," because this attitude will eventually harm her own government.

Bhutto To Attend SAARC April Meeting in Delhi

BK2807132194 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Tariq Butt]

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[Text] Islamabad.- The Prime Minister will visit India in April next year to attend the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

This information was given to THE NEWS by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali here on Wednesday [27 July] before his departure for Karachi on his way to Bangladesh where he will attend the 14th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers being held in Dhaka during 30-31 July, 1994.

He said Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to India might provide an opportunity to the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India to discuss outstanding issues between the two countries particularly the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question, the Foreign Minister said the SAARC Ministerial meeting in Dhaka was mostly of a ceremonial nature. He said India's negative attitude towards its neighbours precluded any chance for the regional grouping to make any tangible head way.

Sardar Asif said that during his stay in Dhaka, he would take up the question of maltreatment meted out to Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi with his Indian counterpart, R.L. Bhatta. He regretted India's hostile attitude towards Pakistan saying that Indian security agencies had not only beaten some of the Pakistani tourists to death but thrashed its diplomats as well. India was always the first to start such diplomatic tussles, which inevitably lead to a rise in political tensions.

Turning to his Tuesday's intensive talks with his Uzbek counterpart, the Minister said they had agreed to exchange information at all levels and coordinate their positions on all issues at bilateral as well as international levels. He said the Uzbek President, who wanted a settlement of the Kashmir dispute had made it clear that, "I cannot remain indifferent to the repression and massive human rights violations in occupied Kashmir".

Sardar Asif said that the visiting Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan had extended invitations on behalf of his President to President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to visit Uzbekistan. He himself would visit Uzbekistan in the next few months in response to a similar invitation extended to him.

Referring to the cooperation between the two countries, he said the Pak-Uzbek Joint Ministerial Committee would meet this year. Pakistan had proposed the setting up of a task force comprising representatives of the two countries to work together in different areas. Fifty Pakistani companies had already applied for joint ventures in Uzbekistan. Of these, 32 companies had started operations in trade and industrial fields. Uzbekistan had agreed, in principle, to allow the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to set up its office in that country.

Higher Growth Planned To Offset Population Rise

BK2807135694 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jul 94 p 13

[Text] Islamabad, July 20: In order to ensure food security, self-sufficiency and large exportable surpluses in the country the government has set primary sectoral goal in agriculture by achieving a higher growth rate than the population growth.

In this context the government has fixed crops production targets for the next five years keeping in view the domestic and export requirements. These include wheat 36.2 per cent, rice 9.7 per cent, maize 4.0 per cent, cereals 5.0 per cent, cotton 11.8 per cent, oilseeds 2.8 per cent, pulses 76.0 per cent fruits/spices/vegetable 4.3 per cent, sugarcane, 4.0 per cent, fodder 13.2 per cent, tobacco 0.2 per cent and others 1.8 per cent.

These targets have been calculated on the basis of additional production likely to be obtained from the use of additional water, appropriate dozes of fertilizer, improved seed, better plant protection measures and farm management practices from the government side.

Interestingly, on the other hand there is little possibility of horizontal expansion in the cultivated area to increase agriculture production and even the existing fertile land is shrinking due to non-agricultural uses, waterlogging and salinity. Presently out of the total cropped area of about 22 million hectares nearly three-fourth is irrigated while the remaining one-fourth is dependent on rainfall. There are about nine million hectares of land termed "culturable waste" which cannot be brought under cultivation for lack of water.

But the government seems firm and determined to secure maximum output by improving operational efficiency through adequate investment in repair and maintenance, and provision of sufficient operational funds.

The government has directed that concerned department will also take into account ecological variations which exacerbate social and economic disparities.

Special measures will be taken to channel technology and resources, differentiated by agroclimate and ecological zones, to small and medium sized farms. Additionally more attention will be given to rainfed, dryland and desert and hilly areas, which have often been neglected in the past.

The profitability of the agriculture sector will be improved through improvement in agriculture productivity, availability of institutional credit for purchase of inputs, machinery and implements and provision of proper support prices to farmers.

Under the Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP) farmers will be provided gypsum reclamation of sodic soils, good quality seed, deep tailage equipment, etc for increasing the yield and production of crops.

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